

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXVIII.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 12TH DECEMBER, 1908.

No. 24

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ARRIVAL OF MAIIS

The English Mail of the 13th November and the Parcel Mails closed in London for despatch by the all sea route on the 4th November and for despatch overland on the 11th November arrived per s.s. *Delta* on the 11th inst.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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FAR EASTERN NEWS.

In the action by Mr. E. T. Bethell against the *North China Daily News*, for libel plaintiff has been awarded \$3,000.

For the first time since the plague established itself in Rangoon a week passed without any death from this disease last month.

Sir Charles Dudgeon has joined the London Committee of the Yangtze Insurance Association in the place of the late Mr. C. M. Dyce.

Cholera is reported to be very prevalent in the Kinchow district of Shasi. Over 90 per cent. of the population are stated to be affected, but this is doubtless a very much exaggerated estimate.

A death from hydrophobia is reported from Hankow, the victim being Mr. Nicola Hausman, controller of the Peking-Hankow railway.

Mr. Archibald Rose, who has been in charge during recent years of the Shipping Office of the British Consulate-General, Shanghai, has gone to Tengyueh, on the Burma frontier, to assume duty there as Acting Consul.

The foreign residents registered at Tsingtau according to the latest published return number 1,654 comprising 1,412 Germans, 22 Americans, 14 Austrians, 9 British, 7 Swiss, 7 Dutch, 4 Russians, 8 French, 2 Danish, 2 Italians, 1 Turkish, 9 Indians, and 161 Japanese.

According to the prospectus the proposed electric tramway between Swatow and Ch'enghai is to be thirty li long. It is anticipated there will be a good passenger traffic and the possibility of goods transport service is held in view. The capital is to be \$300,000. Bridging two branches of the river Han will be an expensive part of the work.

The Mitsui Bishi firm is now constructing a paper mill at Toroku, Formosa, having purchased about six million tsubo of ground there last spring. The Company invests Y.300,000 for the present, and will increase its capital up to one million yen as the business progresses. Materials may be secured from the vicinity of Toroku. The mill will begin work from July or August next year.

A bill setting aside the sum of four million pesos for the construction of four Philippine cruisers is to be presented to the Assembly at its next session. It will be proposed that these cruisers be purchased from the United States government if possible and if there should be none available that the keels of four be laid down immediately upon the passage of the bill, in the United States.

The American Consular staff at Shanghai is to be augmented by the appointment of two interpreters, holding the rank of Vice-Consul-General. These appointments have been given to Mr. Butler, the present Mixed Court Assessor, and Mr. Willard B. Hull, Vice-Consul in charge at Canton. The appointees will each perform the duties of interpreter, and in addition will share the work at the Mixed Court.

Within a few weeks of his departure from Shanghai, Col. Watson is receiving many well-earned tributes to the work he has carried through while connected with the Shanghai Volunteer Corps. The Portuguese Co. S.V.C. showed their appreciation of his services in a signal way last week when they met and handed over to the retiring commandant a handsome silver afternoon tea service. The function took place in the Portuguese Club, when there was a very large attendance of volunteers and the general public.

The proprietors of an organ of the Chinese revolutionists in Tokyo has been prosecuted for a breach of the Press Laws. The prosecution alleges that the journal contained an article advocating the establishment of a republican form of government in China. In the course of the trial the defendants were asked to explain the article and what government it was they objected to. They replied that the reference was to the Chinese Government and that they considered the time had come when China should have a form of government similar to that of the United States and Switzerland. The trial was then continued in private, such a course being deemed advisable for the public good. The Public Prosecutor demanded that the defendant should be severely punished. A large number of Chinese students assembled near the courthouse and threatened disturbances, but were kept in check by a strong force of police.

The Spanish Consul of Shanghai, Mr. A. F. Arias, upon his investigation into the professional conduct of Mr. G. D. Musso with reference to the registration as a Spanish protégée of Wong Chow-sun has found that so far as the Spanish Consulate was concerned, Mr. Musso's conduct was throughout correct. Although the fees paid by the woman to Mr. Musso were paid at the time she was recognized as a Spanish protégée, the Court could not enter into the merits of this point, an agreement between Counsel and client having interceded, which the Court would not be justified in discussing. At the same time, as the Court would have been ready to pass censure, if necessary, upon Mr. Musso, within the limits of its jurisdiction, it takes opportunity of praising Mr. Musso for having undertaken in divers instances the defence *in forma pauperis* of poor Spaniards, which, within the knowledge of the Court, involved considerable loss of time to him. The Mixed Court recently withdrew its permission for Mr. Musso to appear in that Court on account of this case.

The death is announced at Seoul of Mr. T. E. Hallifax, one of the oldest foreign residents in the Far East. His connection dates back to a time shortly after the Indian Mutiny when he went to India to take up an appointment in the telegraph service of the East India Company. In the year 1871 he went to Japan under contract with the Japanese Government and did good work there in connection with the installation of the telegraph service. From Japan he went to Korea, and in 1888 Mr. Hallifax superintended the work of connecting Seoul with Fusan by telegraph. His subsequent career in Korea has been that of a master in the Royal School for instruction in the English Language, a position from which he was retired a few months ago on account of his advanced age, the Government recognising his services by a decoration and a substantial honorarium. Most of the Consular Body in Seoul attended the funeral and the Vice-Minister of Education was among those present. The Imperial Band was present, by courtesy of the Household Department; and it played a funeral march under the conductorship of Mr. Eckert, their director.

The new Emperor is to be known as Hsuan Tung. Now, according to Stent, (says a writer the *Shanghai Mercury*) Hsuan means "to proclaim, to declare, or to read loudly," Tung means "lead, a leader, the beginning, of the whole." A very pretty field lies here for the ingenious, or ingenuous, translator. The new baby ruler may be the "proclaimed leader," and if so, whom is he to lead, where is he to lead them, and against whom? Or he may be the "declared origin" of a new era, the "proclaimed beginning" of a fresh regime, or a score of other things. It does not seem that these titles are necessarily prophetic. "Kwangsui," the official name of the late Emperor, literally means "continuation of glory," not perhaps the epithet which will be most eagerly seized on by historians of the future to describe his reign. So "Tungchi," the name of the predecessor, meant "Peace and order," the "peace" being that which was won by rebellion and foreign war, and the "order" such as followed the exhaustion brought about by them. The *China Times* says that "Hsuan Tung" means "to publish to all;" it doesn't say what is to be published. That is one of the charms common to telegraphese and wen-li alike.

INTERNATIONAL PENNY-A-WORD TELEGRAMS.

(Daily Press, December 7th.)

Penny-a-word telegrams throughout the Empire sounds an impossible idea now-a-days to most people; but one may count up scores of achievements to-day which, half a century ago, the world looked upon as impossible of realisation. Every institution, come great writer has averred, is the lengthened shadow of one man, and those who consider the matter well cannot be too confident that we shall never see the institution of penny-a-word cables. A new actor has of late years entered into the consideration of the question by the invention of wireless telegraphy. When we dip into the future "far as human eye can see; see the visions of the world and the wonders that will be" it can now, we think, confidently be anticipated that wireless telegraphy will contribute enormously to the practicability of the idea. Mr. HENRIK HEATON, however, in his advocacy of Penny-a-word Telegrams disregards this factor at present. In a lecture recently delivered by him at the Royal Colonial Institute he set his finger on the "political frontiers" as the chief obstacle in carrying out the policy. Therefore the first move must be to abolish political frontiers, so far as telegrams are concerned. In this matter, Mr. HEATON urges that "political" frontiers, by arrangement with foreign governments, ought not to be taken into consideration at all; between man and man they should not exist. It is only in the event of failure to get over this difficulty that he places his hopes on his friend MARCONI, who entirely ignores political frontiers. An allusion was made to this subject by the Chairman of the Eastern Cable Co, at the recent annual meeting of shareholders. Sir WOLFE BARRY referred to the report of the inter-departmental committee which considered the cost of cables in 1902 and declared at the outset the suggestion of a penny rate to America and Australia to be "quite impractical." From Mr. HEATON's lecture we take what we conceive would be the main feature of his answer to that declaration. "It is futile to argue," he said, "as regards, say, the transatlantic cable rates (1s. a word) that this rate is based on supply and demand, because the number of words sent in the cables (20,000) represent only a twelfth of the carrying capacity of the lines. This, therefore, is what it amounts to—To pay on the unused eleven-twelfths the two owners of the Atlantic lines combine to charge a prohibitive tariff on the other twelfth, thus rendering what is a necessity a luxury for the few." The argument, as it stands, is not entirely convincing. Increased use means increased cost of administration, but this does not seem to be admitted by Mr. HENRIK HEATON who looks to the cheapening of cable rates to give a filip to the scientist bringing about greater economy in working. We are only yet, he tells us, in the entrance hall of telegraphy. He points to what is known as the POLLAK-VIRAG development as a sure indication of what has yet to be learnt concerning the adaptation of electricity to the needs of modern life. Mr. HEATON's suggestion is that the Governments of the civilised world should buy out the cable monopolists; the present high cable rates that the British and Colonial Governments pay for official cable messages, amounting to nearly a quarter of a million sterling, would go far, he says, towards the interest on the purchase price of the cables. The cable companies tell us that the initial amount required to buy out the cable com-

panies would be stupendous, "running into an indefinite number of millions." Mr. HEATON is not appalled by this aspect of the question. In regard to cables to India and the East, and to America, including the Canadian service, the public, he says, is paying in the present high cable charges for abandoned cables, for superfluous cables and also for unnecessary working staff and apparatus. "In other words, the public is paying £4,000,000 a year for what can be supplied for £130,000." In short Mr. HEATON affirms that, if the present cable service were wiped out or destroyed, it would be possible to reconstruct the whole system anew for less than one half the original outlay. He is as convinced of the feasibility of penny-a-word cables throughout the empire as he is of the practicability of international penny postage. He seems to have a notable supporter in the Postmaster-General of Canada, who, speaking for himself alone, looks upon the penny-a-word cable as "an ideal, as a blessing, which some day should be attained and secured," and he has expressed a desire that an unbiased inquiry should be made into its feasibility and prospects of success.

As for Mr. MARCONI he is convinced that wireless telegraphy for commercial purposes and over great distances, possibly round the world, is bound to become general in the course of time—and that not a very long time. Whether it will or will not injure or displace the cables is still a matter of speculation, but in Mr. MARCONI's view it depends a great deal on what the cables could do in the way of cheaper rates. Mr. MARCONI when questioned by Mr. HEATON, said he would be prepared now to transmit messages from shore to shore between the United Kingdom and Canada for one penny a word, "providing the Governments concerned, or one of the Governments, will pay for the working expenses of stations on both sides of the Atlantic, and also give a comparatively moderate subsidy." The reply evoked some laughter, but Mr. HEATON said the reply was such as he anticipated, "and it turns out on that speculation that we can carry three million words to America for about £325,000, as against £1,800,000 now given to the cable companies for the same number of words." We cannot see that Mr. HEATON makes a strong point here; at least it is not very clear. What we want to know is what these working expenses of the stations on both sides of the Atlantic are likely to amount to and what the amount of the "comparatively moderate subsidy"? These two items are to be provided by the taxpayers. If we subsidise the carrying of mails why not cables also? And if mails and cables, why not commerce and travel? Until it can be shown that penny-a-word cables will entail no appreciable burden on the taxpayers we are not likely to see them, but who can really doubt that they are as inevitable as international penny postage?

THE BALKAN QUESTION.

(Daily Press, December 8th.)

One of the peculiarities of the situation in the "Hither East," as Europe has decided to call for the nonce the countries bordering on Turkey and Persia, is that the smaller Powers, who have everything to lose in a contest, and whose present existence depends on the goodwill of their bigger neighbours, are actually those who talk loudest and strongest of going to war in pursuance of their presumed "rights." Any of these presumed rights, if placed under the category of "desirable," are in themselves reasonable

enough; and, if put forward with a due sense of international perspective, could scarcely be refused by the common sense of Europe at large; but under the heading of "demand" have yet no basis whatever in either reason or past history. If, like the image of ARTEMIS at Ephesus, the whole of the Balkan peninsula had fallen a few weeks ago from heaven, certain logical considerations might well be taken into account, which at present in the light of tradition and history are hardly open to discussion. Looking at the map of the country, for instance, it is hardly logical that Austro-Hungary should hold practically the whole sea coast of Montenegro, and the principality should have to contented with the "Black Mountains" behind: legally the Austro-Hungarian claim proceeds from causes that were valid long centuries before such a nation as Montenegro, or even Turkey herself, had even been heard of in the European family of States. Still, it is perfectly reasonable and logical that Montenegro should plead that in all equity, the European concourse, who some thirty years ago placed Austro-Hungary in possession of Bosnia and Herzegovina should, before agreeing to their final inclusion in the Dual Monarchy, require that the latter should make some reasonable adjustment of a hardship—an adjustment which, while immensely benefiting Montenegro, should do no injury of the slightest amount to Austria herself. Though Montenegro herself has here nothing to give in exchange, the European concourse has really something very tangible, so that the way is open to a very regular interchange.

Again it is quite natural that Serbia should have some feelings of jealousy at seeing Austro-Hungary seeking to advance her influence into the district about Novi Bazar: young as a nation as is Serbia, Austria in these regions is equally young, and neither historically nor ethnologically has she any prescriptive rights whatever. Serbia, if we are to lay any weight in the argument on affinity of race, has certainly the prior claim. But it is not always consistent with the best interests of the world generally, nor often of the peoples themselves, that these presumed racial distinctions should be elevated into national questions; and in any case Serbia is not in a position to carry on an aggressive war against the Dual Monarchy, so that altogether, having a case not altogether clear, and having no sufficient power at her back to proceed to the arbitrament of war, it would have been wiser for her to leave her case in the hands of some friendly Power. Notwithstanding that through her own fault she has not been altogether a *persona grata* amongst the other Powers, there has evidently been a desire in many influential quarters to give her a fair hearing. Now, as we have before observed, this question of the eventual position amongst the European Powers of the Balkan Peninsula will one of these days become the absorbing question of the hour. At present it is a Heptarchy, wherein Wallachia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Austria for Bosnia, Montenegro, Greece, and Turkey, are all manoeuvring for a place; it is much as was England before the Conquest, or Germany at the beginning of the last century. The real struggle will not begin until there shall arise a feeling of common nationality leading to confederation. The present bickerings show how far off is such a development. The wiser of the Great Powers, with the evidence before them that a war once broken out could not fail of becoming general, and dividing Europe into hostile camps; and having the lesson of the

Thirty Years' War before their eyes, refrained from becoming entangled in the strife, and it would have been well if the Emperor of Germany had shown the same reticence. There was a little of world-wide interest in the whole affair, nothing more, in fact, than the preliminary drawing of lots for first innings, that had it not been for the indiscrete announcement of the German Emperor that he intended to back Austria, the affair would by this time have dwindled to a mere diplomatic contest. Unfortunately, most of the rulers concerned immediately were inexperienced, and pricked their ears at the mere suggestion of a scrimmage. To their credit Wallachia and Greece kept cool; and Turkey allowed herself to be guided, but the PRINCE OF BULGARIA, tickled at the suggestion of a real crown, the Archduke FRANCIS FERDINAND, ambitious of posing as a monarch before his time, the not over wise King PETER of SERBIA with his ramparted son of a Crown Prince, and lastly the PRINCE of MONTENEGRO, anxious to pose before his royal relations as a real monarch, already fancied themselves Saladins in the new development of the East. Fortunately France and England, neither of whom had interests outside the preservation of peace, were able to persuade Russia and Italy to stand aloof, so that the danger of the fire spreading was reduced within comparatively narrow limits, but an unpleasant feeling of uncertainty, and a conviction that no promise, however apparently binding, on the part of any one of the Powers can in the present condition of semipanic be relied on from day to day, keeps the whole of Europe in a turmoil.

There is no doubt that within the century, possibly within the next generation, the dominion of the Balkan Peninsula, by whatever name it may at the time be called, will be one of the momentous issues to be tried in the New Europe which is approaching. It is hardly likely that any of the present Great Powers will stand by and quietly see it annexed by any other. It is at the same time hardly conceivable that the present position within the peninsula itself contains the elements of stability. The present restlessness of Serbia, Bulgaria, and Montenegro is only the outcome of natural causes; each naturally seeking to advance its own individual interests; but although these simmerings and seethings may lead to grumbings and bickerings, in the absence of any commanding mind, there is really nothing to cause alarm. When that individual in course of event does, however, arise then must come the inevitable struggle for the mastery of the Peninsula. Never from the dawn of history has it been the lot of the lands between the Danube and Cape Matapan to be inhabited by a homogeneous population. They have, in fact, been in all ages one of the back-washes of humanity. According to the ancient tale told by HERODOTUS, the strange lady of Hylaea, half human, half monster, bore to Hercules three sons, and he who could draw the bow left behind by the hero up to the head was to inhabit the land, while the others had to remove to other climes. The story has been re-enacted in every age since, and the Balkan land has been the scene of contest of Skyth, Sarmatian, and Hunn, each with its own peculiar characteristics as flaxen, or yellow, or swarthy indications prevailed. The powerful grip of the Roman Empire was never able to weld into one the jarring elements; and the contest as to who it is that shall finally hold the substantial prize of the championship remains still open for the most redoubtable of the claimants. Its conquest by the Osmanlis, and its absorption in the Turkish empire, was but an

interlude in the long drama which has left but little trace remaining; the Turk has, in fact become a practically negligible factor in the problem, which still remains as it has done for some three thousand years one of this unsolved riddles of the age.

AN UNFULFILLED TREATY OBLIGATION.

(Daily Press, 9th December.)

The MACKAY Treaty, concluded in 1902, provided for the opening of five new Treaty ports, namely:—Changsha, in Hunan; Wanhsien in Szechuen; Nganking in Anhui; Waichow in Kwangtung; and Kongmoon in Kwangtung. Changsha and Kongmoon were opened in due course, and at long intervals something has been heard of the intention to open the port of Waichow which is situated on the East River, but the opening of the port has been constantly postponed, and evidently, if the wishes of His Excellency the Viceroy of Canton are respected by the Wai-wu-pu in this matter, the port never will be opened. Four years ago when, owing to the reluctance of the other Powers to accept article VIII of the MACKAY Treaty, it was seen that the opening of Waichow was likely to be indefinitely postponed, the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce communicated with the British Minister at Peking on the subject. His Excellency was reminded that a very considerable trade direct with Canton centered in Waichow, and the Committee of the Chamber expressed themselves as being strongly of opinion that in the interests of this Colony the early opening of Waichow to foreign trade was a matter of pressing necessity. "This urgency," wrote the Chairman (the Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT) "is intensified when we remember that when Hongkong is linked to Canton by a line of rail the fact that Waichow is an open port will not only add largely to the trade of the Colony, but will serve as an additional safeguard against competition arising through the development (by improvements in water or railway transit) of possible rival ports in our vicinity to the detriment of this Colony and to British interests at large." A copy of this letter was sent to H. E. the Officer Administering the Government (the Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY) who promised to transmit it to the Secretary of State and recommend the matter to the favourable consideration of His Majesty's Government. Sir ERNEST SATOW wrote for further information in order that he might be prepared to bring the matter forward, should an opportunity offer and should His Majesty's Government approve. It is clear from the report our Canton correspondent sends us to-day that the opening of Waichow has again been urged on the Chinese Government. But it seems very late in the day for the Grand Council to be inquiring into "the suitability of Waichow as a Treaty Port." That, we may presume, was done before the Chinese Government agreed by Treaty to open the place. It is amusing to read the objections the Viceroy advances against the opening of the port. In the first place, His Excellency states that Waichow is in close proximity to Hongkong and could be turned into an important commercial centre, "but unfortunately there is very little produce in the district and the people are poor." Four years ago the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce informed the British Minister that "as is well known, the Waichow district is populous and wealthy, the country is fertile, and, if brought into more direct communication, will no doubt be rapidly developed." Next, the Viceroy says that the river

requires to be dredged before it is navigable to vessels. That is perfectly true, and Mr. A. R. LOWE, who, as Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, visited the district a few years ago, expressed the opinion that it would probably hardly pay to dredge and canalise the East River as far as Waichow to enable moderate draught steamers to ply all the year round. But Mr. LOWE added: "The land on both sides is practically level and the construction of a railway on an embankment would present no engineering difficulties and little bridge work. A line 50 to 60 miles long from Waichow to Mirs Bay could be constructed at an extremely low cost and would be practically certain to pay from the opening date." For the Viceroy to add as an excuse for not opening the port, that the district is full of bandits and that brigandage is rife is simply a confession of his impotence to maintain order within the territories under his jurisdiction; and it shows an extraordinary want of logical thought to be complaining in the very next sentence of the continued maintenance by foreigners of extraterritorial jurisdiction in China. While provincial viceroys confess, as His Excellency CHANG does, their inability to afford adequate security to life and property, the idea of the Powers relinquishing their extraterritorial jurisdiction in China is preposterous. We trust that at Peking there obtains among the officials a better appreciation of the benefits conferred on China by the opening of treaty ports than is entertained in the viceregal yamen at Canton. We quite understand that the extension of extraterritorial jurisdiction is something which wounds the pride of a sensitive nation, but in the present state of China extra-territorial jurisdiction is indispensable, and instead of kicking against the pricks, His Excellency the Viceroy of Canton would be better advised to regard extra-territoriality as an incentive to such administrative and judicial reforms as will bring China into line in this respect with the enlightened countries of the world. When that is done the Powers will be as ready to consent to the abolition of extra-territoriality in China as they were to relinquish it in Japan nearly twelve years ago.

CHINA AND OPIUM.

(Daily Press, 10th December.)

We cannot find in the latest quarterly returns of the Imperial Maritime Customs any confirmation of the reports so frequently and confidently repeated that the anti-opium movement in China is still going strong. So far as the import of foreign opium is concerned during the third quarter of the present year the Customs returns go to show a considerably larger business than in the corresponding quarter of last year. From these returns we can form no adequate idea of the movement of native opium, but what little information they do afford does not indicate that the cultivation of the drug in China has been appreciably reduced. Taking first what the statistical tables in the *Customs Gazette* disclose in regard to the trade in native opium, during the third quarter of the present year, we note that at Ichang, where the import was entirely of native production, the returns show 2,558 piculs as compared with 1,811 in the corresponding quarter of last year, while at Kukiang, where the import last year was 787 piculs and this year 1,181, the increase is almost entirely in native opium. The same statement holds good with regard to Wuhu where an increase of 404 piculs is shown, of which 40 is in the native drug. At

Hangchow too, the import of native opium was 320 piculs during the quarter as compared with 96 piculs in the same period last year; and excepting at Nanking and Hangchow the increase in the import of native opium is the feature of the trade in the Yangtse district. Viewing the opium returns as a whole, we note that very few places indeed show a reduction in the import of opium. Nanking is the most conspicuous place in that respect, for the import there of opium of all kinds fell from 346 piculs to 66, but Amoy is the only other place of importance where the import shows a reduction. There it declined from 1,331 piculs to 1,139. Here are the figures for a few other ports:—

	1907 Piculs.	1908 Piculs.
Shanghai	1,628	3,142
Hangchow	469	654
Ningpo	387	456
Foochow	893	1,153
Swatow	1,436	1,796
Canton	2,865	3,294
Kowloon	102	236
Lappa	52	278

At every one of these places substantial increase in the import is shown. What, then, can be the authority for the repeated statements that the Opium Edict is being increasingly obeyed throughout the length and breadth of China? The Chinese Government is, according to the Imperial regulations, supposed to be supplied with annual returns showing the area under poppy cultivation in each district, but these statistics, are never published. When the Opium Conference meets at Shanghai in February the Government of China may reasonably be asked to furnish a true abstract of these returns for the guidance of the Conference. Possibly it would be wrong to conclude that there has been little or no restriction of poppy cultivation in China because the imports for a quarter at the principal trading marts for the drug show a surprising increase; but that explanation, if it exists, is not obvious, and in view of the coming Conference the facts we have extracted from the July-September Customs returns stand in need of explanation when we are told that the anti-opium movement is becoming increasingly popular in China.

ASIATIC IMMIGRATION.

(Daily Press, December 11th.)

The Crown Colonies have not much reason to bless the present Government in England, but the self-governing Colonies have at least the satisfaction of knowing that the Imperial Government is in sympathy with their efforts to solve one of the gravest problems which have for years been confronting them all—we mean the problem of Asiatic immigration. Australia, New Zealand and Canada have deemed it necessary to adopt drastic measures to stop the influx of Chinese and Japanese immigrants while the South African Colonies have awoke to the grave peril of immigration from India and have sought relief in the same way that it is obtained in Australia and the United States. Speaking as a guest of the Liberal Colonial Club in London recently Colonel SEELY expressed his entire agreement with the principle of the objection of the people of Natal and the Transvaal, and he agreed also that Australia should be reserved for the white races provided they proved themselves sufficiently prolific. "So long" he said, "as Australian statesmen, backed by the unanimous opinion of the people of Australia said that their

country could only be well governed if the exclusion of Asiatics were maintained, the Government at home must endorse that proposal."

The problem of finding the solution so far as the Indians are concerned is a much more difficult one than that which relates to Chinese or Japanese immigration. Japan has been able to solve the difficulty of accommodating an expanding population by the acquisition of territories large enough to absorb her overflow for many years to come. India, on the other hand, stands in great need of an outlet for her surplus. British East Africa has been suggested for colonisation by Indians. The suggestion has had the support of Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL, if it was not he, in fact, who originated the idea. Men who have spent their lives in Africa, who have watched the present problems forming have pronounced against the idea and pointed out that it would simply mean recreating in another part of Africa the vexed problem now awaiting solution in Natal. It was probably with some knowledge of the case against the proposal that Colonel SEELY expressed in the speech to which we have alluded the opinion that "we should do wrong to adopt that plan unless we are convinced that the country would not attract and support a great white race. Whether it would do so or not could only be tested by time, and we must wait and see." This enables us to understand that the Under-Secretary meant when he said earlier in his speech that the immigration problem involves a lesson in patience. It is a lesson which will outlast the lifetime of the present generation of politicians.

But what of China? In Australia and on the Pacific Slope of America "the real difficulty" is with China, and it is not an uncommon thing to see the statement glibly made that China cannot support her present population. "Her 450 millions," says one writer "are at present confined to a country not capable of supporting 300 millions in accordance with civilised ideas." Now, if we take the opinion of Sir ALEXANDER HOSIE who has travelled in nearly every province in China, the estimate of 450 millions must be reduced by at least one hundred millions, and in many of the provinces there are vast areas but sparsely populated. It does not follow that "as civilised ideas come in, an overflow of population is inevitable." Rather ought those ideas to serve in keeping the population at home, for the application of civilised ideas in the promotion of industry and trade and the exploitation of the mineral wealth of China should provide employment enough to render emigration unnecessary on account of any inability to find the means of livelihood. China is evidently not anxious to encourage emigration on any large scale and if there is an unemployed problem in China it does not seem to force itself into prominence.

We have received from the Editor of the *Minpoa Magazine*, which has been suppressed by the Japanese Judicial Authorities, for advocating revolution in China, a printed statement setting forth his grievances against the Japanese Government. The writer complains that while political refugees find protection in the United States, France and Germany from the tyranny and oppression of their own governments, Japan is crushing the Chinese revolutionists, and the manifesto alleges that the Japanese Government has been bribed to do so by the grant of certain railway and mining rights in Manchuria. We doubt the statement, and in any case, we should regard Japan as being perfectly justified in stopping any abuse of the right of asylum she accords to Chinese political refugees.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

Aye, man, there were one or two gay sair heeds on Tuesday mornin'. It wasna whusky, did it. Na, na. It was that fassy stuff. It looks like leemonade an' ye drink an' ye drink an' ye drink, an' mighty me before ye ken whaur ye are ye're not able to see yer pairtner and ye get foozled at the reel, an'—an'—ah weel, ye ken the rest. Naethin for it but to gang hame as straucht as ye can and lie doon.

Aye, Monday was a great day for Scotland. Old St. Andrew must have felt honoured when he realised that so many people remembered him after he had been dead so long, and doubtless he began to think that Scotland was fairly important after all. And why shouldn't he? Any country would be proud of so many braw lads and bonnie lasses, and those who could not claim Scottish blood must have felt on Monday night that they were sadly lacking. It was good to see the folks enjoying themselves so heartily. The strathspey was a sight for the gods, even though the music was supplied by dusky pipers, and the hoochs that went up at the reels made one conscious of the wild joy of living. Aye it was a great day—and a grand night.

Why, oh why, do the public demand encores so unreasonably? The A.D.C. have done extremely well in their production of "A Country Girl" but apparently the public for whose entertainment it is designed do not realise the amount of work involved and thoughtlessly demand encores in a performance which ordinarily extends over three hours. It is quite possible we know to have too much of a good thing, and thoughtless auditors might remember that in time, and not prolong the production to a wearisome length.

The topical allusions at the A.D.C.'s performance are very clever. There is the expected reference to the Sanitary Board and its dealings with cats, but the remark which brings down the house is when Barry in his political address describes the governing machine as like a big warehouse where applicants and customers are referred to certain counters. The opium business is mentioned by a customer and he is directed to proceed to a certain floor and at the same time the attendant calls out "Sir Frederick, step forward please!"

The A. D. C. give two more performances—to-night and to-morrow—and then on Thursday the Bandmann Comedy Company occupy the boards for a season. They have a fine range of comedies, as the reader will see on reference to the advertisement in the *Daily Press*. I noticed that the Burma papers, when the company was at Rangoon, recently spoke very highly of them and the fact that every night they drew big houses is good evidence of public appreciation. Notwithstanding that they are following here so closely on the A.D.C. the bookings to date are very promising and I have no doubt that the Company will be as well supported on this occasion as they have always been in Hongkong. Our season for indoor amusements is short, and there are several comedies in the list which are new to most people in the Colony.

I hear that a serious attempt is to be made to effect economies in the colonial administration. A Retrenchment Committee has been appointed by the Government and though its constitution has not yet become public it has already got to business. Heads of departments have been invited to suggest possible reductions not merely in small monetary affairs but in the staffs as well, and it looks as if a few changes are impending. At any rate it indicates that we are to cut our coat according to our cloth.

American courts are now being called upon to decide in matters of domestic hygiene as well as of ethics. A woman in San Francisco has just secured a divorce, her principal grievance being that her husband had taken only two baths since their marriage last March. This is certainly interesting. By and bye, I suppose, we may expect to have judicially laid down a code

of personal conduct which will, as the advertisements say, be useful in every household.

What a romance was concealed in that litigation last week over a sewing machine? Romeo, or was he Othello, madly in love with a fascinating opera girl seeks to win her favour and presents her with—a sewing machine. None of your gold rings or flashing diamonds. No, a practical, useful gift, which can come in handy by and by. But the course of true love doesn't run smooth. The lady goes away, so does the machine, and the lover is left lamenting, faced with a bill to remind him of his fascination.

Shades of Lindley Murray! Lord Robert Cecil has asked in the House of Commons why black men die three times as often as yellow men. Colonel Sealey confessed that he did not know, nor could he explain why Chinese commit suicide six times as often as the blacks. I give it up too. If anybody had put the question to me: "which die oftenest—blacks or yellows?" I would unhesitatingly have said yellows, for I know quite a lot of Chinese young men who have buried their fathers or their mothers times out of number.

Apparently a better feeling has been created in local commercial circles by authoritative information that the reports which were in circulation last week of wholesale deportations in connection with the recent riot, were greatly exaggerated. It is true that a few well-known merchants have been deported, but rumour said there were to be a hundred. The rumour is entirely false. I understand that the Government has no intention of banishing any more unless, of course, there is further lawlessness and violence.

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

The King has been pleased to approve of Senhor Joao Joaquim Leiria as Consul of Portugal at Hongkong and as Consul of Brazil.

Mr. G. A. Woodcock, the secretary of the Sanitary Board, having returned from leave, has taken up duties at the Supreme Court temporarily until March. Mr. Woodcock was called to the bar five years ago.

At the Supreme Court on Dec. 9th the Chief Justice, just before the adjournment for tiffin, said it would be convenient to stop then. "I can't go on," he added, "until I get hot water pipes. I am half frozen." The Court was warmer in the afternoon.

The rainfall of the 8th and 9th inst., following the typhoon in the China Sea, must constitute something like a record for December in Hongkong. The mean rainfall for December for the last twenty years has been 1.03 inches; the maximum 4.10 inches. The total fall on the 8th and 9th inst. was 2.30 inches to 10 a.m.

On December 9th a detective went to the office of "The Query" and arrested Alfred W. Hall, who was described as a reporter, on a charge of forgery and embezzlement at Manila. He was brought before Mr. Kemp at the Magistracy yesterday and remanded until Wednesday next.

Before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Saturday three of the crew of the s.s. *Loongang* were charged with being in unlawful possession of 700 taels of opium, which was found concealed in the ventilators and on the bridge. His Worship fined one of the defendants \$500 and each of the others \$250.

Inspector Ritchie, after seventeen years' service in the Hongkong Police, has retired from the force on pension and leaves for home to-day. He joined the Edinburgh Police in 1886 and came out to Hongkong in 1891. A very efficient officer, his departure will be regretted by all his colleagues.

A dramatic incident was witnessed in the Supreme Court on Dec. 9. A Chinese was suing for damages for the loss of his wife, and his case had concluded when the solicitor for the other side rose and said "I will now call Li Ting, the real husband of the deceased." The effect was dramatic. The sequel has yet to be heard, but interesting developments may be expected in a case where two men claim to have been married to the deceased woman coolie.

On the 8th instant the coolie quarters at Blackhead's Point were seen to be ablaze, and in very short time the flames had spread to a matched covering a stack of coal. The coal burned quickly and it looked as if a serious conflagration was impending. However, the Fire Brigade was summoned from Hongkong and with the additional assistance rendered by the Dock Company's tug, "David Gillies," succeeded in subduing the flames. Considerable damage was done, the loss probably amounting to over \$2,000.

The Colony remains free from communicable disease. Not a single case came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health last week.

A meeting of Justices of the Peace was held at the Magistracy on the 8th inst. to consider an application from O. E. Owen for a publican's licence for premises at 30 Elgin Road, Kowloon, under the sign of the Kowloon Hotel. The application was granted. The Magistrates present were Mr. J. R. Wood (who presided), Captain Badeley, and Mr. Bowen Rowlands.

Notification has now been received of the results of the Royal Sanitary Institute examinations held at Hongkong in May last. Only one candidate, Mr. Samuel R. Boyd, presented himself for examination in sanitary science as applied to buildings and public works, and he has been granted a certificate. Two candidates sat for examination for inspectors of nuisances—Messrs. F. E. Beach and Robert Hudson both of Hongkong, and they are certified, as regards their sanitary knowledge, competent to discharge the duties of inspector of nuisances under the Public Health Act 1875.

It is interesting evidence of the public appreciation of the A.D.C. performance of "A Country Girl" that on the last three nights the audiences were larger than on the first three. The most crowded house was on Saturday, the next largest was on Tuesday (the final performance), the third largest was on Monday, the fourth on Friday, the fifth on Thursday and the first night was actually the smallest, though it did not appear that seating room could be found for another hundred persons. The "Country Girl" therefore met with an amount of support which is quite exceptional, and all who witnessed the performance will agree that it was richly deserved.

An impudent case of snatching was investigated at the Magistracy on Dec. 8th. The complainant, a gun layer on the German cruiser "Fuerst Bismarck," left the German Tavern in Des Vœux Road about 11 o'clock on Saturday and entered a ricscha. He had only gone a little way when he felt a tug at his waistcoat, and on looking down saw that his chain had disappeared but that his watch was still in his pocket. P.C. Lanigan, who was on duty at the time, saw a coolie following the ricscha, but thinking he was another runner paid no attention until he saw the man leave the ricscha and run under the verandah, practically into his arms. The chain was not found on the coolie. His Worship (Mr. Wood) after hearing the evidence, decided to convict and sentenced the defendant to six months' imprisonment.

MASONIC.

The installation of officers of the United Service Lodge 1341 E.C. for the ensuing year took place on Tuesday evening. The ceremony was conducted by Wor. Bro. T. F. Hough, D.D.G.M., assisted by the District Grand Lodge officers, and the following were duly invested by Wor. Bro. J. N. Jones:—W.M., Wor. Bro. J. N. Jones; I. P. M., Wor. Bro. E. C. L. Lewis; S.W., Bro. W. Wolfe; J.W., Bro. O. F. Frost; Treasurer, Wor. Bro. H. G. Baker; Secretary, Wor. Bro. W. H. Woolley; S.D., Bro. A. J. Knight; J.D., Bro. C. A. Atkins; Chaplain, Bro. T. W. Martin; Organist, Br. J. C. Pendlebury; D. of C., Bro. W. R. Sutton; Asst. D. of C., Bro. J. W. Adnams; I.G., Bro. G. S. Hill; Steward, Bro. W. J. Lewington; Asst. Steward, Bro. T. G. Gough; Tyler, Bro. J. Vanstone.

The usual banquet followed, at which about 120 members sat down, under the chairmanship of Wor. Bro. Jones.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on Dec 10th in the Council Chamber.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, Sir FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

H. E. MAJOR-GENERAL R. G. BROADWOOD, C.B., A.C.D., (General Officer Commanding), Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G., (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. W. REES DAVIES, K.C., (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G., (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. E. A. IRVING (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. F. J. BADELEY, (Capt. Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT.

Hon. Mr. H. A. W. SLADE.

Hon. Mr. W. J. GRESSON.

Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Financial Minute (No. 69) and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 19) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

NEW TERRITORIES SMALL DEBT COURT

ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to empower a Magistrate to hold a Small Debt Court in the New Territories and to regulate the proceedings in relation thereto. In doing so he said—Experience has shown that it is desirable to enable a magistrate to deal with small debts in the New Territories. The powers conferred under the Magistrates Ordinance of 1890 generally extend to civil debts in the ordinary sense of the term, as they are confined to claims declared by the Ordinance to be civil debts. The question has therefore arisen as to whether civil debts come within the jurisdiction of a Magistrate in the New Territories. The Bill therefore proposes to give a magistrate jurisdiction to hear and deal with cases summarily. It requires that a defendant do reside or carry on business in any part of the New Territories exclusive of New Kowloon which is defined in Ordinance 6 of 1900. It further requires that action be brought within three years after the cause of action arises. That is after the general principle prevailing in the Statute of Limitations which requires an action to be brought within a definite period of time after the cause of action arises. This Bill creates the necessary machinery for carrying this out and for issuing the process of the court in respect of which any judgment should be given. It empowers a magistrate if in his opinion the subject of action is of sufficient importance to be dealt with in the Supreme Court to decline to proceed with the action and the plaintiff then will have a right to start *de novo* on the Summary side of the Supreme Court. This is an important provision because having regard to the fact that the amount of claim is limited to \$200 it is not proposed in the Bill to grant any right of appeal. Questions may arise which the magistrate may consider of sufficient importance to engage the attention of the Supreme Court and questions with which he would not be justified in dealing summarily he is given by this Bill power to refer the matter to the Supreme Court. He is also empowered to review any judgment or decision given by him.

within one month of date and to re-open and re-try cases. That, Sir, already exists under the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance. It appears to be a proper one because it is quite possible that evidence will then be forthcoming which was not available at the time judgment was given. The Bill is based generally on precedent, on the Summary Jurisdiction Act of 1873, and it certainly seems desirable in as far as distance is concerned and with a view to expediting the administration of justice in the New Territories that this Bill should be passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The Council then went into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause, and on resuming the ATTORNEY-GENERAL reported that the Bill had passed through committee without amendment.

MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Magistrates Ordinance 1890 and to effect certain other amendments in the Criminal Law. In doing so he said—It also effects some small amendments in the criminal law of the colony. The objects and reasons which are attached to the Bill gave categorically the reasons for each section. Clause 3, which gives the power of imposing imprisonment in the failure of a defendant to comply with his sureties to be of good behaviour, is simply based on the same basis as the subsequent clause in the ordinance which gives a magistrate power to impose imprisonment where a man fails to enter into sureties to keep the peace. It appears to be an omission in the original ordinance and the object of the amendment is to put both on a basis of uniformity. As regards section 4, at the present time power to impose a whipping is confined to certain cases only and magistrates have found in cases of youths that they have had to impose imprisonment or let the youth go altogether. The object of this is to extend the power of whipping which is a salutary amendment. It is based on the principles which now prevail in all colonies as they do at home so as to authorise whipping instead of sending youths to prison. That power will have to be exercised with discretion but I submit it is a good one and will have a salutary effect. Instead of sending a youth to prison it empowers a magistrate to order him to be whipped. As regards section 5, the Ordinance recently passed affected the law imposing punishment by stocks and the Ordinance drafted by me was to the effect that punishment would only be imposed in cases of offences punishable by imprisonment. As my honourable and learned friend opposite remembers we had some difficulty at the time in considering the phraseology that would best meet the point in view and subsequently to the passing of the Ordinance it was brought to the notice of the Government that the Magistrates' Ordinance of 1889 gave power to a magistrate in all cases to impose a fine except in cases where he was empowered to impose imprisonment. The effect of that was to nullify to a great extent the provisions of the Ordinance as it stands and certainly it was entirely opposed to the intentions of the legislature which when the subject was discussed was of opinion that the imposition of punishment by stocks should be modified in a degree. It was never intended to modify it to the extent which would be the case if the particular section of the Magistrates Ordinance to which I referred was brought into operation. That being so, we felt it desirable to clear up the matter altogether so as not to nullify the effect of the existing legislation. The only object I have in view is to preserve what is in the Statute book and existing legislation. Since I have come to the Council to-day I find that my hon. and learned friend opposite has some doubts as to the wording of the clause as it stands at present. I can only say that the object of the clause—and that after full consideration of the subject by all the magistrates concerned and by those who have had any experience of magisterial courts—is simply to preserve existing legislation. I am quite sure I have Your Excellency's consent for saying that it is the intention of the Government to preserve the existing state of things and not to insist upon the imposition of stocks. With regard to clause 7, first section,

clause 18, the Government intends to modify these proposals and a clause will be submitted to the Council upon which His Excellency will have some observations to make.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I do not propose to discuss any of the various clauses alluded to by the hon. Attorney-General at the present moment but before we go into committee on the Bill I should like to say a few words regarding the first subsection of clause 7. The clause as it stands printed in the Bill before us makes spitting a nuisance and therefore it would devolve upon the police to enforce the law and to arrest persons who were breaking it. Since my attention was first directed to this subject, which is now many months ago, there have been several important and interesting debates in the Sanitary Board on the subject. It was proposed by some of the members that notices should be posted in public places prohibiting this habit and several gentlemen who have an intimate acquaintance with Chinese character considered that method would be effective. The hon. member who represents the Chamber of Commerce did not I think share that view entirely and was opposed to the policy of laissez faire. In that I quite agree with him but I hope the amendment which will be proposed will meet his view. It is generally to the effect of empowering the Governor in Council to issue regulations should occasion demand and to attach penalties for the breach of those regulations. Although I think it would be preferable to publish notices in public places if there is any prospect of their being effective, I am opposed to the issue of a prohibition which may be ignored with impunity and which the Government has no power to enforce. I therefore think if such notices are published there should be means of enforcing them in case of their disregard. At the same time I think it is unnecessary to burden the statute book with another amendment to a bill which we have already under consideration. The insertion of the amending clause which is proposed will enable the matter to be dealt with so far as the law is concerned without any further amendment to the Ordinance. As regards the necessity of taking any action in this question the habit which we are discussing is not only a disgusting one which is not tolerated in any civilised city and against which I believed legislation has been enacted in America and quite recently in the Straits Settlements, but it is also one which in my opinion is detrimental to the public health. It has, I think, been amply demonstrated that tuberculosis disease is spread by this means. In the dry months before us matter discharged from the mouth and nostrils dries in the sun, is pulverised, hung in suspension in the atmosphere, and is inhaled in the lungs of healthy persons. I myself am strongly opposed to paternal legislation which interferes with the convenience of the individual unless it can be demonstrated that convenience is exercised to the inconvenience of the majority or to the detriment of public health. I do not think it is asking too much to require persons addicted to the habit of expectoration to move to the side of the pathway and expectorate in the drain or as regards public halls and stairways that they should be required to use spittoons which I think is reasonable and which owners should provide for the purpose. I confess my view on the necessity of taking action on this matter is based not merely or primarily on the social inconvenience of any particular part of the community as for instance soiling European ladies' dresses but on the ground that it is a danger to the public health and is in my opinion of very great hygienic importance. The exact terms of the amendment will be read to you in the committee stage and then you will have the opportunity of amending or altering them.

Hon. MR. SLADE—Your Excellency, I intended to oppose the second reading of this Bill in view of sub-section 1 section 7 to which Your Excellency has just referred. I understand it is intended to entirely alter this clause. I think, Sir, this is an important matter and it seems to me that it needs a great deal of consideration, lest some regulations may be confirmed which will cause annoyance to the Chinese community here. I am therefore of opinion that with Your Excellency's permission it might be better if we had time to consider the

new form in which this clause is to be enacted instead of discussing it immediately this afternoon. I do not know if that meets with the views of other members but it seems to me an important thing which needs careful consideration.

Hon. DR. HO KAI—Your Excellency, it was my intention also to oppose the second reading of this Bill, but just before Council Meeting I learned that my hon. friend who has just sat down wished to say something against the second reading and I left it to him to speak first. Now, Sir, this Ordinance was introduced to further amend the Magistrates Ordinance of 1890 and under the title of that it introduced one of the alterations in a former Ordinance which excited a good deal of discussion and consideration between myself and my colleague representing the Chinese on this Council and the learned Attorney General. After much discussion, as he has stated, we had fixed upon certain phraseology and that phraseology was set forth fully in the Stocks Punishment Limitation Ordinance of 1907. This Ordinance is to be repealed but I submit as we had been consulted before as to the phraseology of that Ordinance we should have been consulted as to the drafting of some new clause which would meet the difficulty. Now the present substitution for that clause in section 5 reads (Quotes). That includes a very large number of offences, in fact offences which in our previous discussion had been admitted on all sides to be offences which ought not to be punished by the stocks. Now in turning over the index attached to the revised Ordinance we find under "misdemeanour" a large number of offences, such as celebration by a minister of an unlawful marriage, or of marriage by unauthorised persons, disobeying an order of banishment, disturbing divine service at St John's Cathedral, fraudulent bankruptcy, removing adhesive stamps, false statements in registering births and deaths, and officers certifying false documents and so on. I will just refer to one which the Ordinance clearly declares to be a misdemeanour—the removing of adhesive stamps. I am referring to Ordinance No. 16 of 1901 section 27. (Reads.) By the terms of this new section the removal of adhesive stamps will also be punishable by stocks because it is a misdemeanour. That will show that the punishment by stocks can be awarded to any person who commits an offence against this as well as other Ordinances which I have just mentioned. That is going far beyond what we have agreed to in respect to punishment by stocks. But the great objection to this Bill is no doubt section 7. As I have not seen the amendment of which Your Excellency spoke I cannot say anything about it but on principle I must say I protest strongly against the introduction of this clause which has the effect of making a habit, however dirty and filthy it may be, a criminal offence. And this is under the title of an Ordinance further to amend the Magistrates' Ordinance of 1890 and to effect certain other amendments in criminal law. Sir, I do not advocate the habit of spitting in public or in any place but at the same time we must consider that spitting is either voluntary or involuntary—voluntary when a man spits with a will, but sometimes a man spits when he is under the necessity of doing so. A man who has something in his mouth or who gets something nasty in his mouth at once spits it out. I remember a story of a Chinese philosopher who had a great repugnance to eating animal food and especially to goose flesh. One day he was treated to a certain dish of which he partook freely until he was suddenly told that what he was eating was goose flesh. This philosopher jumped out of his chair at once, went outside and spat—spat for all he was worth. It was lucky for him that at that time there was no ordinance making spitting a criminal offence. Take as an example public theatres, Chinese theatres, where people sit and have food, tea, fruits, and all sorts of things and they can also smoke while they are witnessing the performance. Supposing anything nasty got into a man's mouth there I say it is a matter of necessity that he should spit: it is an involuntary act on the part of that person, and now you are making it a criminal offence for which a man can be run in and fined. Again in schools, it may be a matter of discipline, yet at the same time children spitting in the playground are liable to

be had up, and according to another provision of this Bill instead of being put in gaol will be liable to a whipping. Then with regard to offices and flats. With flats in European houses and flat occupied by business men regulations of this kind will no doubt be a benefit, but Chinese tenement houses are let out in flats not as places of business but as residences. Spitting in all these places will have to be prevented. I appreciate Your Excellency's statement that this section is not being introduced against any particular section of the community but I venture to submit that it will be very difficult indeed for the general public to appreciate that statement, because the very large population of Chinese here who have been accustomed to expectorating not only at home but outside would constantly be offending against the law without perhaps intending to do so. Habit is second nature and becomes a sort of involuntary act, and a provision of this kind would I am quite sure deter a great number of Chinese from visiting this colony or regarding it as a desirable place in which to live. We have already, Sir, had many experiences in measures dealing with sanitary improvement of the colony, and I would remind Your Excellency that we have recently found that the relaxation of the law has been instrumental in promoting the diffusion of sanitary knowledge among the Chinese and has obtained much better results than strict adherence to the letter of the law. I think if it is desired to inculcate abstinence from spitting in public or in offices, notices should be published warning the people not to spit, and at the same time providing spittoons in offices. Let us try that measure first. I am quite sure that in time it would be successful.—Outside in the street what can we do? Are we to give the police power to arrest everybody found spitting there or are we to instruct police officers to exercise certain discretion in allowing some to do it and not allowing others. If we strictly carried out the law I am afraid the gaol compound would not be sufficient to accommodate those arrested. If you say the law will not be enforced strictly then I say first of all what is the use of having a law on the statute book without enforcing it. Again if we are to leave the discretion to common police officers we are in danger of placing in their hands a powerful instrument of oppression. I am not speaking in any disparagement of the police force of the colony and I hope the Captain Superintendent will not think I am belittling the splendid force under his command. I am only putting it as a general principle. If you entrust these discretionary powers to a common constable are you not running a danger of giving him power to do evil and become oppressive? Now, Sir, I know arguments have been advanced that in Singapore they have passed an Ordinance of this kind. But in Singapore they have managed to do away with the vexed question of subsidiary coin and what is more they have succeeded in establishing a Municipal Council. Does it follow then that we could follow them in these respects and in this particular instance would it not be a mistaken policy to follow Singapore? Sir, I approach this question with no prejudice whatever. As a strict sanitarian I say it is desirable in certain respects, and just now Your Excellency has drawn a picture which scientifically may be regarded as correct. That is to say that spit on the ground gets dried and the germs fly about and carry infection. On the other hand what is the substitute for spitting on the ground? A man has to carry a handkerchief with him. That article is a very necessary one, but if we were to stop people in the street and search their pockets we would find very few possessing it. Supposing they spit into handkerchiefs or sneeze into them the germs gets into the the handkerchief. Then they put it into their pocket, thereby infecting their clothes, which is just as dangerous. Or if they have not a handkerchief they may use their coat sleeve. What then? Does this not also carry infection? Is there any difference in spitting into a gutter or on the pavement or spitting into a coat? I submit there is not much difference so far as the spread of infection is concerned. Sir, for the reasons I have stated I can perceive a great deal of opposition to this

clause unless it be amended in such a way as to remove all the objections. And I think, after all, that this is not a matter of very great urgency. The Government would be exercising the wisest discretion in postponing its consideration for some little time. I intended asking that the bill should be read a second time twelve months hence, but in view of what your Excellency said about amending clause 7, I think it would be enough if the second reading of the bill could be postponed for a fortnight or three weeks.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK—I quite concur with all the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai has said, and hope that the Council will see its way to postpone the second reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Your Excellency. In your opening remarks you referred to the fact that I was the representative of the Chamber of Commerce. That, no doubt, is my position here and consequently my official designation, but I may state that anything I say at this meeting is entirely on my own account as I have not consulted the Chamber of Commerce in the matter. The hon. and learned unofficial member on my left referred to one of the clauses in the bill which makes the removal of adhesive stamps punishable by stocks. I presume the use of stocks in any case is exercised with the greatest possible discretion by these officers to whom the power is granted. Speaking from my own personal experience, gained in the Criminal Court I should say that the removal of adhesive stamps may lead to very serious frauds for a great number of years, and from a commercial point of view it is one of the most serious offences that can be committed and therefore I think the law officers of the Crown should have the widest possible powers to deal with the offence. If in certain cases the best means of punishment is the stocks I think that power should be in the hands of the law officers who can be trusted to exercise discretion. The main point under consideration however is clause seven, section three, subclause 18, with regard to spitting. The hon. unofficial member on my right and the hon. Chinese members have suggested that the discussion on this question should be postponed. I do not see any necessity for that at all. The question is a very old one and they have had ample opportunity of considering and discussing it. I do not see that anything will be gained by postponing it for a few weeks or a few months. We will be no nearer to a solution than at the present moment. The hon. and learned member on my left appears to think this spitting is to be absolutely prohibited and does not realise this under this clause the side streets are spittoons. The penalties are for spitting on the side walks and in public buildings. In supporting this what I consider most wise and necessary reform on the part of the Government—I say I am the last member to support any grandmotherly legislation—I believe that this is a really seriously demanded reform and it is perfectly idle to suppose by putting up notices and asking the floating-Chinese population of Hongkong to gradually learn that they must not spit in certain premises is a waste of time. Much better go to the root of the matter at once and legislate. Although it is not made much of in the official returns, tuberculosis is one of the most serious evils in Hongkong. We have an incredible number of deaths from tuberculosis which must be largely due to this disgusting habit. Therefore, Sir, I think the Government is perfectly right to ask for legislation now. We can trust the Government that it will not be unduly enforced in the first place. We will gradually educate the Chinese and other sections of the community into realising that they must not spit promiscuously where they please. I trust the Government will not delay the legislation but proceed with the matter at once.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—In reply to the remarks of the hon. gentleman on the subject of stocks, I am glad to say as I told you before that this definition has been the subject of most mature consideration. My hon. friend will probably say that the other definition was equally so. It has been difficult to get a definition in anything like the exact terms of what we wish to carry out. I think, Sir, my hon. and learned friend will find that the alteration modifies the imposition of stocks.

I have a list here which shows the particular offences in which I have inserted the words as they appear, according to the view which I have taken of it, in which certain offences would not be included. For instance the Licensing Act, the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, the Pawn-brokers Ordinance, the Police Court Ordinance No. 1 of 1845, Water Works Ordinance, Rogues and Vagabond and Malicious damage. All those would not come within the category and the result would be that stocks would not be imposed in respect of them. The hon. member drew attention to certain offences which come under the heading of misdemeanours. I have had an opportunity since he has been speaking of looking through them and there are only three offences which are not governed by the existing law, and are declared to be misdemeanours by statute. They are celebration of unlawful marriages, disobedience of an order of banishment and disturbance of divine worship at St. John's Cathedral. These are declared expressly to be misdemeanours by statute. All I can say,—speaking generally, is that two out of three would be perfectly legitimate subjects for stocks. If a man goes and brawls in church and interferes with divine worship I think the punishment of stocks is a very suitable punishment for him. They are all, however, left to the discretion of the Magistrates. They don't impose stocks because they have the power but they impose them because the man before them is a criminal whom they wish to prevent reappearing from day to day before them in the Police Court. I think, Sir, therefore, that it is right at once to say that whatever course is adopted the objections taken by my hon. and learned friend with regard to stocks are irrelevant. The particular cases to which he has alluded although they may strictly speaking come within the purview of the Ordinance really have no possible bearing. I don't think his objections are well founded and have no practical bearing at all.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, one cannot help appreciating the eloquence of the senior unofficial member in defending what I suppose to be the ignorant members of the community from the grip of the brutal policeman for spitting in the streets but he seems to have forgotten that it is not spitting in the street that would be an offence. It is spitting on the pavement. Alongside every pavement there is a gutter in which a man spits just as well as he can spit in a receptacle placed in a room or a lobby or a verandah. The amendment which Your Excellency proposed to submit to the Council in committee I think will probably meet the objections of the hon. member and I will read it to you. It runs: "First sub-section of clause 7—For the purpose of promoting the sanitation and cleanliness of public places the Governor in Council may at all times hereafter make and vary regulations for the following purposes: (a) For the prohibition of spitting upon the footway or public street and in all such buildings and vehicles, trams, railway cars, and other places as may be described in such regulations. (b) for the imposition of penalties for the violation of any such regulations and for prescribing the mode of their recovery. Such regulations shall be published in the Gazette and shall have the force and effect of law in the same manner as if they were incorporated in this Ordinance." The effect of that would be that this new law would be limited entirely to the public places to which I have mentioned, wharves, jetties, footways of public streets and only to such buildings as the Governor-in-Council may prescribe. I think the hon. member will credit the Governor-in-Council with the use of discretion in the selection of buildings that would be prescribed. I trust, Sir, that with this explanation hon. members will accept the bill on the understanding that in committee the section to which I have alluded will be amended in the manner just described.

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—I should like to ask if we do not accept the amendment in committee what will be the result if the Bill is read a second time?

HIS EXCELLENCY—If the bill is read a second time the principle would be accepted but the details of wording of the amendment would be subject to alteration in committee.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—I have been speaking to the second reading of the bill. Now I am going to propose an amendment and beg to move that this bill be read a second time this day twelve months because as Your Excellency has just said if we were to let this bill pass the second reading we will be taken to approve of the principle that legislation on this subject is necessary, which, as I have just submitted was not my opinion.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK—I beg to second the amendment.

On the amendment being put the "ayes" were Hon. Mr. Slade, Hon. Mr. Gresson, Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk and the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai.

Those who voted against the amendment were the Colonial Secretary, the Colonial Treasurer, the General Officer Commanding, the Director of Public Works, the Attorney-General, the Registrar-General, the Captain Superintendent of Police and the Hon. Mr. Hewett.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The "noes" have it by eight votes to four.

Council then went into committee to consider the bill clause by clause.

HIS EXCELLENCY—With regard to the clause about spitting, the amendment of which has just been read by the Clerk of Councils, the extent of the penalty applied by the Governor in Council might be limited. I think myself it is reasonable to suppose that the Governor in Executive Council would use common sense and only apply regulations if necessity were shown for it by the Sanitary Board or otherwise. In speaking to the point the hon. senior unofficial member laid great stress upon the fact that a man who involuntarily wished to spit would have no possibility of doing so except in his handkerchief. There would be spittoons provided in all public places. In streets it is only on the pavement that spitting is objected to and it seems to me that this is a very reasonable proposal.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—The only thing is that such a large number of people will be fined.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Why so? It is very little to require of them to spit off the pavement.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—It is a habit and it takes some time to get a man to cast off a habit, also it is difficult when a fit of coughing comes on.

HIS EXCELLENCY—We don't ask them to break the habit. We ask them not to spit on the pavement.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Sir, if you accept the arguments of the hon. member on my left we will never have any sanitary reform in Hongkong at all. I would advise you to go right on.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—That is all very well, but I do not approve of those high handed ways and remarks.

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—A certain number of us feel that we must at the present moment forbear with Chinese prejudices. The hon. member representing the Chamber of Commerce does not appear to be able to get this into his head. Every one of us agree that is a desirable bill but say that the time is not ripe for forcing down Chinese throats regulations as these.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Then hon. member near the door apparently overlooked the fact that I stated in my remarks that the Government would not enforce these regulations too vigorously. I have probably had a great deal more experience in sanitary matters and of Chinese generally than the hon. member nearest the door.

HIS EXCELLENCY—As it stands the Governor in Council may at all times hereafter make and vary regulations. I should be prepared to give an undertaking to the Council that no such regulations would be made for a period of six months. I am in favour of trying the suggestion of the Sanitary Board that public notices should be posted first and if they are successful no further action need be taken.

Hon. Mr. SLADE—Wouldn't it be just as well then not to bring in this clause just now? A great deal had been done in all sanitary matters by educating and obtaining the co-operation of the Chinese. Wouldn't it be as well to see if anything could be done in this respect?

HIS EXCELLENCY—I propose to do that. But if we propose that it will mean again amending a statute which we have passed. We have had in this colony frequently to pass amending ordinances to bills already passed.

Hon. Mr. SLADE—I do not agree with the principle of punishment for a matter of that

kind because we have so many men coming here from the mainland who have no opportunity of knowing what is wanted to be done in the colony in a small matter like that. They have been in the habit of doing this all their lives and to punish such people for such an offence seems to me hard lines and harsh treatment.

HIS EXCELLENCY—We will put up public notices.

Hon. Mr. SLADE—But can they all read? That is the point.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—If we put spittoons in offices and find a man spitting elsewhere can we prosecute him for committing a nuisance? If we have no remedy I do not see how legislation is going to further sanitary reform. That is the only way to educate the community that they must not spit where they please.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—That is all very well but what we say is that the present time is not opportune.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Where will you be six months hence?

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—Perhaps in six months time you won't want to prosecute. Probably no one will go to your office.

HIS EXCELLENCY agreed to allow clause seven to stand over for a week.

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Fire Insurance Companies Ordinance 1908.—In doing so he said:—This Bill was passed through during the present year and as stated in the objects and reasons it was considered by the Board of Trade that the rights of creditors and shareholders were not being sufficiently safeguarded and provision is therefore made that if the company or any member or creditor feels aggrieved by the name of the company having been struck off the register the company member or creditor may apply to the court and the court if it be satisfied that it is just so to do may order the name of the company to be restored to the register. I may say, Sir, that it is based generally on the Life Insurance Companies Ordinance of 1907 passed last year. It puts the two ordinances on a similar footing with the exception that it extends the right to the creditors as well as member of the company. It creates practically a uniformity and the same power is proposed to be exercised in the other small bill before the Council generally amending the Companies Ordinance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the Bill was read a second time.

The Council then went into committee and considered the Bill clause by clause.

On resuming.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL reported that the Bill had passed through committee with slight amendments and moved that it be read a third time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the bill was read a third time, passed and became law.

INTERPRETATION ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Interpretation Ordinance 1897 and to remove an ambiguity in the construction of the same. In doing so he said—The object of this Bill is to keep in force the right to bring any action for criminal conversation. I may say sir, it is purely a legal point and in order to give effect to decisions of the Supreme Court to maintain the right for an action for criminal conversation in this colony because no power to bring divorce proceedings exist. I may say that the Bill was very carefully considered. It was somewhat technical and required careful consideration. Its object is to give effect to decisions of the Supreme Court.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the Bill was read a second time.

The Council then went into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

On resuming.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL reported that the Bill had passed through committee and moved that it be read a third time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

COMPANIES ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to

further amend the Companies Ordinance 1865. He said—The object of this Bill extends to creditors of company the same right as a company or its members possess in the case of a defunct company being struck off the register, under the Companies Ordinance 1865. Procedure is laid down as regards the striking a defunct company off the register and gives to a member of such company power to apply to the court. It has been deemed advisable that that power should also be extended to a creditor of the company. Where proceedings are taken and a company is struck off the register it has been deemed desirable that a creditor of the company should have the same right and privilege of going to court as the company.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the Bill was read a second time.

The Council then resolved itself into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

On resuming.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL reported that the Bill had passed through Committee and moved that it be read a third time.

THE TRAMWAYS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—As regards the next order—the committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance for authorising the construction of a tramway within the colony of Hongkong—I do not propose to proceed with it to-day.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Council stands adjourned until this day week.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following vote was passed:—

POST OFFICE.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of eight thousand seven hundred and ten Dollars (\$8,710) in aid of the vote, Post Office, for the following items:—

<i>Hongkong Post Office, Other Charges.</i>	
Carriage of Mails, Share of Mail Subsidy...	\$7,665
Compensation for Damaged Parcels, etc...	30
Incidental Expenses	450
<i>Postal Agencies in China.</i>	
<i>Other Charges, Shanghai.</i>	
Rates and Taxes	565

Total.....\$8,710

The CHAIRMAN—Of this vote \$565 is for taxes on Government property in Shanghai. They appear to be as hard up as we are.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—I don't think it is quite fair that we should be made to pay the taxes.

The CHAIRMAN—I don't know about that. Personally I think they are quite right to get all they can, no matter where it comes from.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—Quite right, but why should we be taxed?

TWO LUKONGS MURDERED AT MACAO.

A Filipino named Hilario Barte who has been residing for some years at Macao had an altercation in the street on Monday with two lukongs and stabbed them both. One of the men died on the spot and the other succumbed next day in the Military Hospital. The murderer has been arrested.

TRADE MARK DECISION IN JAPAN.

Mr. Y. Toneri, Chief examiner of the Patent Bureau, has given decision on a protest lodged by Herr Mattins Hownell, of Wurtemberg, Germany, against H. Ishihara dealing in musical apparatus in Osaka. The statement of the appellant was that the Japanese registered a trade-mark No. 23,724 at the Patents Office on July 10th, 1905, and used it on various musical instruments manufactured by him. The mark adopted by the Japanese resembled that of the German merchant who had used it for a long time past. The chief examiner gave decision in favour of the German and said that the Japanese had stopped the employment of of the trade-mark, which fact had been intimated to the Bureau on June 15th this year.—*Japan Mail.*

SANITARY BOARD

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Dec. 8th at the Board Room. Mr. R. O. Hutcheson presided and there were present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, C.M.G., Colonel Bedford, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Dr. Pearse (Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. A. Gibson (Secretary).

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The death rate for the whole Colony for the month of October was 29.6. The mortality statistics for the week ending 28th November showed that the death rate was—civil population, 23.7 as compared with 20.5 for the corresponding week of last year—for the whole Colony 21.6 as compared with 23.5 for the corresponding week of last year.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

The COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON reported that foot and mouth disease existed as No. 10 shed of the Dairy Farm Co. premises at Pokfulam. The shed contained 12 cows and two bulls, and of the lot three were infected. He recommended that the shed be declared an infected area.

The shed was declared an infected area on the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by DR. PEARSE.

The COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON, in reply to MR. HOOPER, stated that all the cattle affected at the last outbreak were doing well. There were no deaths.

CEMETERY AT KOWLOON.

A letter from Government relative to the selection of a cemetery site at Kowloon was read as follows:—

Colonial Secretary's Office.

Hongkong, 25th November.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 8th of last February I am directed to inform you that H. E. the Governor has decided to defer the selection of a site for a cemetery at Kowloon, as, owing to the configuration of the country great alterations are certain to occur as the peninsula is developed, and it is almost impossible to select a site until a general plan for laying out this area has been evolved. Moreover at the present time funds are not available to form the cemetery and the roads giving access to it.—I am Sir, your obedient servant,

F. H. MAY.

Hon Mr. HEWETT minuted—A site should be marked out now. No considerable sum need be spent for some time to come.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by DR. PEARSE, it was agreed that no further action be taken in the meantime.

KOWLOON RICSHA SHELTER.

Correspondence relative to the ricksha shelter at Kowloon was submitted. At the last meeting MR. SHELTON HOOPER drew attention to its insanitary condition, and the matter was referred to the Assistant Medical Officer.

DR. MACFARLANE now reported that he was unable to agree that the shelter was in a filthy condition and categorically replied to the points in the memorandum submitted by MR. HOOPER. He denied that the "shelter had not been swept for three weeks," as it was swept twice daily, and controverted the statement that the "coolies from want of time are unable to go to the Government urinal." Moreover he did not think that the expense of concreting the shed was justified.

MR. HOOPER minuted—My informant still maintains that up to the time of the last Board meeting the shelter had not been kept regularly clean but there is an improvement since attention was called to it. I inspected the place myself two days ago and found it clean.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

An application was received for a licence a fat boiling establishment in Mongkok.

MR. HOOPER remarked that since the last meeting of the Board a Bill had been introduced into the Legislative Council containing a section dealing with offences created by offensive trade being carried on in premises not specially licensed by the Government. In view of that he thought they should find out before they sanctioned the use of any premises for offensive trades, whether or not it was in contravention of the Crown lease. If it were a contravention and the Board granted the application it might place itself in a very false position.

MR. CHATHAM said that at present provision was made for the licensing of premises by the Sanitary Board, and an amendment had been made in these terms. That would not apply to a lease issued years ago, as the one under consideration probably was. It might be assumed that the same consideration would be extended to the lessee of these premises as obtained at present. The district in which the offensive trade was to be carried on was of course the primary consideration.

MR. HOOPER agreed.

Eventually the application was refused.

AMENDED BYE-LAWS.

Correspondence relative to the amendment of the Dairy, Bakehouse and Importation and Inspection of Bye-laws was submitted.

MR. HOOPER—The proposed alterations of the proposed bye-laws had better be referred to the committee which the Board appointed to draw them up.

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Have these bye-laws been referred back to us by the Government?

HON. MR. CHATHAM did not think it was necessary to refer the bye-laws back to the committee as the alterations were purely verbal.

The bye-laws were read and the necessary alterations made.

WHERE IS THE SECRETARY?

MR. HOOPER—I would like to ask where our Secretary is? Mr. Woodcock has returned to the Colony and we have heard no reason why he has not taken up his duties at this Board. Have you any communication to make to the Board on the subject?

There was an awkward pause, and no reply being forthcoming.

MR. HOOPER added—Perhaps you would like it to stand over until next meeting? I don't wish to press for an immediate reply. I thought possibly some one else had been appointed.

THE PRESIDENT—Better let it stand over until next meeting.

MR. HOOPER—I think the Board would like to know the reason.

THE PREVAILING EXCITEMENT AT CANTON.

A BOYCOTT OF THE STEAMER "FATSHAN."

Our Canton correspondent writes:—

The principal instigators of the present anti-foreign movement are the members of the Self-Government Association who are actively carrying on a propaganda to boycott the steamer *Fatshan*. Many secret meetings have been held by this Association, at which violent speeches were made condemning the decision of the Court of Inquiry and holding the firm of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire responsible for the outcome of the incident. The four witnesses who would seem to have committed perjury in the British Consular Court have been presented by the Association with gold and silver medals. This example was followed by the people in *Fatshan* on the 12th instant, and the photographs of the witnesses were also taken.

A circular was sent round on the 6th inst., in which it is stated that there were witnesses of the s.s. *Fatshan* incident proving conclusively that the crime was committed, and the accused should therefore have been punished. Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, the circular says, are responsible for the act and the British Consul cannot shift the responsibility on other shoulders. China and England had hitherto been on very good terms, and, whenever an international question occurred, it had been justly settled. The Chinese officials were now taking up matters seriously. There were certain laws governing the matter and justice must be done. "All our brethren," adds the circular "have the right to protect their lives and property and follow modern civilized methods (of retaliation?), but they should not take any measures of violence which would not be up-to-date." Fearing that some ignorant people may listen to rumours and resort to violence the Association announces that it will hold a meeting at noon on the 14th day (7th instant) and they invite all brethren to attend and discuss the case in order to enlighten the public and show outsiders that they also have laws and customs and how this matter should be dealt with. In conclusion the circular says:—"We must keep close together and act according to our own laws."

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

December, 8th.

S.S. "FATSHAN" AFFAIR.

The following is a literal translation of an article which appeared in the 72 Guild Press to-day:—

"Re: the case in which a certain passenger was kicked to death by a foreigner.

"Public anger has been aroused throughout the whole Province of Kwangtung. Yesterday a relation of the deceased named Ho Yu Cham called personally at the Self-Government Association and presented a written statement of complaint which is as follows:—

"This statement of complaint is presented by Ho Yu Cham concerning the shocking way in which the deceased was kicked to death. The British Consul protected the prisoner and shut out the means of redress for the grievance.

"Your humble petitioner is a brother of the deceased, Yu Tiu, who was wickedly kicked to death by a foreigner on board the steamer *Fatshan*. This complaint has already been laid before your honourable association to obtain redress.

"I have heard that the British Consul intentionally shifted the responsibility on to others. I fear that there will be no redress, and that I will have to swallow the grievance. I believe that I am not influential enough to obtain redress for the death of my brother. I beg the Association, which is animated by a patriotic spirit and concern for the public good, to have pity on your brethren and take the matter up. I understand that the Association has already consulted with Na Shi, my sister-in-law, and is thoroughly acquainted with the facts of the case. I trust that the Association will do its utmost with the assistance of the patriotic witnesses, Yeong, Fung Tang and Cheong, to stand firm. My sister-in-law and my nephew will all abide by the decision of the Association, whatever it may be. I thank you heartily for taking up the matter.

"This petition is presented to the honourable members of the Self-Government Association by Ho Yu Cham, brother of Ho Yu Tiu, the deceased."

OFFICIAL CALL.

Com. Z. Volpicelli, Italian Consul-General for Kwangtung, Kwangsi and Fokien Provinces, has arrived from Hongkong, and is calling upon the Viceroy to offer condolences upon the death of the Emperor and Empress Dowager and also to offer congratulation upon the accession of the new Emperor.

FIRE.

A fire broke out in the Kwongchow Prefect's Yamen yesterday. It started at 3 p.m. and hundreds of pumps responded to the gong calls. Many civil and military officers turned out and rendered assistance. The fire originated in the Prefect's family quarters and was put out at about 5 p.m. The hose of the water works department did good service. The estimated loss is about \$5,000.

A WHOLE VILLAGE DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Sometime ago I reported that a band of robbers, armed with Mauser rifles, made a raid on a number of family houses and shops in Ho-Nam. A few days ago a military officer in charge of a guard house reported to the Poon-Yü Magistrate that he had discovered that several of the robbers who took part in the recent Ho-Nam armed robbery are people belonging to the Kong Tan Village near the American Medical College in Ho-Nam. Upon receipt of this information the magistrate went to the village with the military officer and a dozen soldiers with the intention of capturing them, but to his surprise on their arrival at the village the villagers offered resistance and fought the soldiers, driving them all out of the village and seriously wounding several of the soldiers. The Magistrate and his men had to beat a retreat. The matter was reported to the Viceroy who gave orders to the Kwongchow General on the following day to proceed to the village with a body of soldiers, to arrest all the villagers and burn the whole village. The villagers got wind of the Viceroy's anger and most of them deserted the village before the General and his men arrived. However, the village was entirely burnt down and a few of the villagers were arrested.

VICEROY CHANG OPPOSES THE OPENING OF WAICHOW.

Sometime ago the Grand Council at Peking considered the opening of Waichow in the Kwangtung Province as a Treaty Port and in consequence instructions were sent to Viceroy Chang to make the necessary investigations regarding the suitability of the place as a Treaty Port and to furnish a report on the matter. His Excellency has recently forwarded his report to Peking. In it the Viceroy states that Waichow is a place in close proximity to Hongkong and could be turned into an important commercial place, but unfortunately there is very little produce in the district and the people are poor. The rivers are not at present navigable and accessible to vessels; they require to be dredged. Moreover the district is full of bandits, brigandage is rife and there would be great difficulty in capturing the outlaws if anything should happen. Besides, extra-territorial rights have not yet been given back to China and the power and privilege of deciding all international matters are entirely in the hands of the foreign Consuls in all the Treaty Ports. The more treaty Ports are open, the more restraint will be placed on China, through international questions which may arise. It would be better in His Excellency's opinion not to open any more Treaty Ports; but if the present case cannot be avoided then extraordinary care should be taken in considering the matter. The Viceroy repeats in conclusion his view that the opening of further Treaty Ports should not be considered.

EMIGRATION TO MEXICO PROHIBITED.

The Wai-wu-pu has sent telegraphic instructions to Viceroy Chang to notify all the officials in the Kwangtung Province to prohibit labourers from proceeding to Mexico. The cablegram further states that they have received information that certain foreigners have without authority gone into the interior of China and are inviting labourers to proceed to Mexico.

The Wai-wu-pu has cabled to Minister Wu Ting Fang to communicate with the Mexican Government and ascertain whether the recruiting has been sanctioned by the Government. The Chinese Minister has returned a negative reply. The Viceroy has in consequence issued notifications to all the officials to stop the recruiting.

SWATOW-CHAOCHOUFU RAILWAY.

The Board of Posts and Communications has been again pressing the Swatow-Chaochoufu Railway Company to replace its numerous Japanese staff by Chinese. As matters are at present writes the Swatow correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News*, this is impossible. The concern is practically mortgaged to the Japanese by reason of the amount of its indebtedness to them on account of construction and stock; and the employment of Japanese may be regarded as part payment of interest. The reply of the Company to the Board is that the line is still on its trial, and needs further development and extension, and that for these reasons it is impossible to dispense with an expert staff at present. This contention is quite legitimate. The impression abroad is that the line is not paying in its passenger receipts alone, and that a large development of its goods business, not only with Chaochoufu and the intermediate stations, but also with places up river, is necessary in order to make the line a success. The Company has in prospect the establishing of a service of light-draught steam-launches up river to Kayingchou. This can be only a temporary measure, for the natural line of development is over-land to the same place, and beyond that into the coal bearing districts towards Tingchoufu.

The latest official return of Chinese in the Transvaal shows that at the end of August 151,762 coloured persons were employed and 17,270 Chinese; according to the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, the number of Chinese employed at the end of September was 14,655. The death rates per thousand for the quarter ended June 30 were 32.035 for natives and 16.002 for Chinese.

SUPREME COURT.

Wednesday, 9th December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGGOTT).

A COMPRADORE'S LIABILITY.

S. J. David and Company, merchants, brought action against Chan Ut Chai, a compradore formerly in their employ, for the recovery of \$648,816 the amount of damages due under agreement. Defendant counterclaimed for the return of his security \$55,000 alleging that he had fulfilled the terms of his contract.

Hon. Mr. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Jackson, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, appeared for the plaintiffs, while defendant was represented by Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston.

Plaintiffs claimed that part of the consideration of their employing defendant as compradore was that defendant agreed to make good any deficiency in the price of goods sold or agreed to be sold by them to Chinese while he was compradore, irrespective of whether the sale was with or without defendant's consent. The plaintiff had incurred losses in relation to or arising out of contracts entered into with Chinese and the defendant's liabilities as compradore amounted to \$648,816.67, which was admitted by the defendant in a declaration made in support of a petition in bankruptcy.

In the statement of defence defendant denied that he ever agreed to pay to the plaintiff any deficiency in the price of goods, loss, profit, commission or any losses sustained by the plaintiffs as alleged in the claim. Defendant said he was not liable to pay the claim or any part thereof and denied that the plaintiffs' losses amounted to \$648,816.67 or to any sum nearly as large, and declared that he, as compradore was not liable to pay it, or any part of it and that plaintiffs had lost all their rights against the defendant by entering into agreements in the early part of August 1906 and the early part of September 1906 to give time to the Chinese concerned for taking delivery of the goods the plaintiffs had contracted to sell. He was liable to pay no more than the difference between the price at which the said goods were contracted to be sold and the market price, and the market price at the dates on which delivery of the said goods should have been taken, and was not liable to pay anything in the case of goods which the plaintiffs had not in hand at the due date for the delivery thereof. Goods imported by the plaintiffs to meet their contracts were destroyed or damaged by the typhoon of 18th Sept. 1906 and in other storms, and the plaintiffs had received monies in respect of such destroyed or damaged goods, and not credited same to defendant nor had they brought into account in their claim against the defendant certain monies received by them under agreements of compromise with purchasers.

The counter claim stated that defendant repeated the allegations contained in the statement of defence under and in pursuance of the agreement. The defendant deposited with the plaintiff \$55,000 as security for the due performance by the defendant of his obligations under the agreement, and he said that those obligations had been performed.

The reply to the defence and counter claim stated that defendant's agreements, as compradore with the plaintiffs, and his obligations were defined in two agreements, one dated January 30, 1902 and a further agreement on April 27, 1905, and that the defendant was liable to pay the plaintiffs' claim in that action. Plaintiffs further contended that the losses amounted to \$648,816.67. Referring to the counterclaim, plaintiffs stated that \$55,000 was deposited by defendant with the plaintiffs where the money remains, as security for the due performance of his obligations, which defendant had not fulfilled.

Mr. Pollock made a preliminary submission that defendant was bound to begin, and read the paragraphs on which he founded this submission. Defendant confessed he had admitted that he owed such and such a sum to plaintiffs. It was immaterial to them whether it was in a document or verbally, Defendant having admitted that he owed this money.

Sir Henry Berkeley—He did so mistakenly. It is not an admission.

Mr. Pollock—It is an admission and he has to show why he should be relieved from it. Where you have it that he has admitted liability to us in aunt certain amount goes on to say that he did so mistakenly the burden lies upon him to show he was mistaken.

His Lordship—No. His evidence would be to show that he mistakenly believed he was liable. You would not get any further.

Sir Henry Berkeley—My friend is not quite ingenuous. He has not read the particulars of that admission.

His Lordship—You are not suing on that admission. It is only incidental evidence.

Mr. Pollock—It is, at all events, a matter of record.

Sir Henry Berkeley—There is no admission on the pleadings.

His Lordship—The Court cannot sanction a matter of bad pleadings.

Mr. Pollock—You can say—

His Lordship—If you sued him on the admission I agree with you, but your cause of action is the compradore's agreement, and to strengthen your claim you put in evidence that he admitted it. It is part of your chain of evidence.

Mr. Pollock—If a man admits a thing and says I have made a mistake, surely the burden is on him of showing he was mistaken.

His Lordship—It is a piece of evidence which you hope to make the best of.

Mr. Pollock—Surely you can plead as a matter of fact that the man has made an admission.

Sir Henry Berkeley—But he qualifies it.

His Lordship—The pleadings are badly drawn.

Mr. Pollock—That he admits it is on record.

His Lordship—Nothing could be on record.

Mr. Pollock—Supposing a man admits a debt, can't you plead he has admitted it? That is the point. It is for him to show why he should be relieved from it.

His Lordship—That makes your action depend upon it.

Mr. Pollock—No, not entirely. We say we are entitled to judgment unless he can show why he should be relieved from it. The only way he can be relieved is that there was a mistake which ought to entitle him to relief. We are entitled to go for him on the double ground, firstly on the admission and secondly on the general principles.

His Lordship—Supposing he goes into the box and says I drew this up in a hurry. That is an end of it.

Sir Henry Berkeley—They have the particulars of the admission.

His Lordship—You have not advanced your case.

Mr. Pollock—It is for him to get out of it.

His Lordship—Supposing we see the admission first. It may be it has been made an issue.

Mr. Pollock—That is what I submit.

Sir Henry Berkeley—No, it hasn't.

Mr. Pollocks reads.

Mr. Pollock—If he says I was induced by Mr. David to make an admission, surely the burden is on him—

His Lordship—Only the burden of showing he was mistaken.

Mr. Pollock—Surely it goes further than that.

His Lordship—I don't see how you can shift the whole case on his shoulders by that. I don't see what is to be gained by it. If you like to rest your case on that admission, it is different.

Mr. Pollock—I would put it not merely as incidental but as a double ground.

His Lordship—I don't see how it would benefit you. The onus of the whole case would still be on you.

Mr. Pollock quoted authorities in support of his point.

His Lordship however decided that it was only evidence and that it was not sufficient to shift the onus of proof on defendant.

Mr. Pollock, in opening, explained the method of business as to contracts, etc., and pointed out that when the defendant found he could not carry on he filed his petition in bankruptcy, but as there was only one creditor an order in bankruptcy could not be made.

The hearing was adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM AGAINST A SHIPPING COMPANY.

Yan Wan, the lawful husband of Yun Yan Shi, deceased, and Yun Ah Mui, the infant daughter of both, brought an action against the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company Limited to recover \$1,000 damages for loss sustained by the death of the said Yun Yan Shi, caused by negligence of the defendants' servants in navigating the s.s. *Loong Sang* in the harbour of Hongkong on 19th June, 1908, whereby a collision took place between the *Loong Sang* and the licensed junk No. 2666 on which the said Yun Yan Shi was a passenger. The deceased had been in receipt of from \$12 to \$15 per month as wages and had contributed up to the time of her death towards the household expenses of the plaintiff and had paid solely for the maintenance and education of Yun Ah Mui. Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Hastings appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing said Messrs Hastings and Hastings had written to him stating that they were willing to assume for the purposes of the case that the collision was due to negligence.

Plaintiff gave evidence as to the death of his wife.

Mr. J. Hastings cross-examined plaintiff as to his marriage. He had, he said, never seen her before he married her. An old woman acted as go-between and he paid \$50. There was no wedding chair and she walked into his house.

Was there any document exchanged between you and this woman?—No.

Did you live with her until the time of her death?—Yes.

Where did you live?—We lived in Tai Wo Street for two months and in another street after that.

How do you know she was a widow?—She said so.

You took no means to inquire?—Yes.

Of whom did you inquire?—The go-between.

Would you be surprised to hear your wife had a husband in the country at the time you married her?—No; she had no husband.

Do you know a man has put in a petition to the Registrar-General for compensation for the death of his wife who was the woman in question?—I don't know.

Did you go to Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist's office to ask them to make a claim for your wife?—I don't know.

Did you ever go to any lawyer except Mr. Otto Kong Sing to make a claim for your wife?—No.

Mr. Hastings then read a letter from the solicitors mentioned to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. at the request of plaintiff.

You did not instruct Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist to write that letter?—No.

You failed to identify the body when asked by the police?—No. I never saw any body.

You went to the Mortuary?—Yes.

With whom?—I went alone.

What was her husband's name?—I don't know. Why should I ask?

You were not interested?—No I was not interested.

Plaintiff said his wife earned from 40 to 50 cents a day. When she was not at work she sat at home.

Re-examined—Is it the custom for Chinese to see their wives before marriage?—I did not see mine any way (Laughter).

A Chinese woman also gave evidence. She came from the same village as the plaintiff and spoke to deceased living with the plaintiff.

Cross-examined—Did you know her parents?—No.

You knew her all your life and don't know her parents?—I made a mistake. I did not know her all my life.

How long?—Four or five years.

She was married to this man?—Yes.

How do you know?—Her husband is related to my people.

You know that she lived with this man and that is all you know about it?—Yes.

Yu Lum, undertaker, gave evidence as to the removal of a body from the Water Police Station to the Mortuary at Yaumati.

Sanitary Inspector Ward produced a burial order for the interment of the body in question. Plaintiff was not at the Mortuary whilst he was there.

Cross-examined—The body was not identified. Had it been identified, the name would have been entered in the burial order.

Re-examined—If a person called and identified the body and refused to pay for the burial would that not effect the matter?—No.

If a person called after the order had been made out and identified it, would the name be inserted?—Yes.

Mr. Hastings said the action was brought under the Fatal Accidents Ordinance and the only persons who could claim under that Ordinance were the husband, wife and child. It was perfectly evident that that meant the legal husband. Plaintiff had to prove in order to succeed that he was the legal husband of the woman alleged to have been drowned. That defendants denied. They admitted that plaintiff lived with the deceased for three years, but they denied that he was her husband. Plaintiff had not produced any evidence in support of his claim. Mr. Hastings proposed calling evidence to prove that the deceased woman was married in China when 18 years old according to Chinese custom; that her husband was still alive; and that plaintiff had no right whatever to bring this action.

Inspector Langley said that the collision in question was reported on the 19th June, but no body corresponding to the description given was recovered from the wreck. The body of a man answering the description was found later, but plaintiff failed to identify it.

Sergt. Caygill also gave evidence as to bodies being recovered from the water.

A clansman of the deceased said she was married 20 years ago to Li Ting. He was present at the marriage ceremony which took place in Tunkun district. There was a bridal chair. She lived with Li Ting for a long time and came to Hongkong. Li Ting remained in the country.

Cross-examined—How old are you? Twenty nine.

You have told us you were well acquainted with the deceased?—Yes.

And knew her family?—Yes.

Do you know the plaintiff?—No.

What was her mother's name?—I don't know. How should I know a woman's name?

Witness spoke to a visit to Mr. Otto Kong Sing's office and said that a man told him to claim relationship with the deceased, but he would not.

Li Ting was next called. He said he lived in Lam-chun village in Tunkoon. He was married, Yan Mun was his wife. She died on the 19th June last. He petitioned the Registrar-General asking for compensation for her death. He was married to her in Lam-chun village. She was then 18 years of age.

What ceremonies were there?—There was the bridal chair and some music.

Were there any documents exchanged?—Yes.

What were they called?—The usual compliments of pork and cakes.

I mean the writing?—The date of birth, child name and so on, written on red paper.

Had you any children by her?—Two.

She has not lived with you for some years?—Since I have been employed by the Chinese officials she has not lived with me.

How long is that?—Two years ago.

And she came to Hongkong?—I only heard last year she had come to Hongkong.

Cross-examined—Where are the wedding documents?—They were destroyed after we were married.

Why?—My father did it.

Intentionally?—Not intentionally. He put them away and something ate them up.

Who was Yan Mun's father?—Yun Sau.

And her mother's name?—I have forgotten.

His wife sent home a little money for the children. He did not know that she was living with another man.

Re-examined—He was employed as a militiaman on the forts. That was why he was away from his wife.

The case was put in Friday's list.

A SOLICITOR'S COSTS.

Mr. O. D. Thomson sued Mok Iu Tong alias Yi On Tong, compradore to Reuter, Brockelmann and Company, for \$950.65 professional costs.

Mr. E. J. Grist appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Bailey appeared for defendant.

Argument ensued as to procedure, and his Lordship reserved judgment.

Thursday, 10th December.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR
F. PIGGOTT).

A COMPRADORE'S LIABILITY.

The hearing was continued of the action in which S. J. David and Company, merchants, sued Chan Ut Chui, a compradore formerly in their employ, for the recovery of \$648,816 the amount of damages due under agreement. Defendant counterclaimed for the return of his security, \$55,000, alleging that he had fulfilled the terms of his contract.

Hon. Mr. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Jackson, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, appeared for the plaintiffs, while defendant was represented by Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston.

Sir Henry Berkeley said he intended to move for judgment on the facts before the Court, and if the Court was unable to give the judgment he asked for he would suggest that an inquiry similar to that which his Lordship ordered in the case of Chan Kee and Sassoon be directed, Counsel proposed to put in certain documents which were admitted by the other side.

Mr. Pollock—My friend is not entitled to put in any documents without calling evidence.

Sir Henry Berkeley said the documents contained a record of matters that had passed.

His Lordship—You will have to prove the reports.

Sir Henry Berkeley—They are admitted by the other side. Proceeding, Counsel said he desired first of all to direct the attention of the Court to the nature of the action, and to the parties to it. His Lordship would see that the parties were Messrs. S. J. David and Co. and Chan Ut Chui, and that the action was confined to a claim to recover damages from the defendant to recoup the plaintiffs for losses sustained by them on contracts made for the sale of yarn with certain Chinese persons in this Colony for whom the defendant was stated to be surety. This was a specific action, and there was no other question before the Court. The sole question was whether the plaintiffs were entitled to recover in this action from the defendant any sum in respect of the losses which they sustained. He submitted that there was no agreement between the parties; it was absolutely imaginary on the part of the plaintiffs. When his Lordship read paragraph 3 of the statement of claim, Sir Henry Berkeley had no doubt that he imagined that his learned friend was quoting part of an agreement between the parties. If his Lordship got the strongest pair of magnifying glasses in the Colony, and looked the agreement through from beginning to end, he would not find one single word justifying any such allegation on the part of the plaintiffs. What his friend had done was to misquote the proviso for redemption, and endeavour to convert it into an agreement or a covenant to pay. He had absolutely mistaken the remedy in this case. Instead of bringing an action to foreclose the security, the plaintiffs had brought an action for damages for breach of contract, placing the defendant, as it were, on a footing with the Chinese contractors for whom he was surety under the mortgage.

His Lordship—It is customary here, apparently, to link on the compradore agreement with the compradore mortgage. That is precisely what was done in Chan Kee's case, and there I held that it was proper.

Sir Henry Berkeley—The facts are not the same in the two cases.

His Lordship—Does anything turn on this somewhat technical point that only Mr. David is a party?

Sir Henry Berkeley said that was one of his points. He submitted that the defendant contracted in two capacities. He had made with the plaintiffs an agreement as their servant; and he had also executed a mortgage to Mr. A. J. David. There had been no assignment of that mortgage by Mr. A. J. David to Messrs. S. J. David and Co. Counsel submitted that in the absence of any assignment of that mort-

gage from Mr. A. J. David to Messrs. S. J. David and Co. the plaintiffs had no *locus standi* to sue the defendant in this case.

His Lordship—Supposing this mortgage were foreclosed, and the money was recovered under it, would not that money belong to the firm?

Sir Henry Berkeley—It does not follow that because A. J. David is a partner in the firm that he is in accord with the rest of the partners for the enforcement of this security. They should have made him a party to these proceedings. We have made no assignment of any mortgage to S. J. David and Co. The mortgagor is not suing us, and nobody but he can sue us. Proceeding, Counsel submitted that the plaintiffs could not sue on any covenant in the mortgage. He submitted further that the two documents—the mortgage and the agreement—having been made between different parties, could not be read together. In Chan Kee's case the mortgage and the agreement were between the same parties. The first point he wished to raise was that the plaintiffs could not sue, and that the defendant was entitled to judgment because of the manner in which the action was brought. His second point was that the mortgage, having been made to A. J. David, could not be regarded as incorporated into the agreement made with different persons, S. J. David and Co. In the proviso for redemption that, if the defendant did not pay, he lost his mortgaged property, there was not a single word which could be construed into an obligation compelling him to pay whether he wanted to save his property or not.

The hearing was adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING
PUISNE JUDGE).

INCOMPLETE PARTICULARS.

Action was brought by Man Yeung Chi, a widow, against Mok Loi Pan, compradore, to recover \$1,000 due under a promissory note made in favour of Man Lu, deceased. There was also a counter claim for \$1212, of which \$212 was waived in order to bring the claim within the summary jurisdiction of the Court.

Mr. C. F. Dixon of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. G. E. Morrell (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell) represented the defendant.

On the claim judgment was entered for plaintiff with costs, and a stay of execution granted by consent.

Mr. Dixon stated that in connection with the counter claim he applied for further particulars regarding the items in the claim on the 27th of last month. His Lordship made an order for further particulars, but they had not yet been furnished.

Mr. Morrell—My friend is not quite right I furnished him with particulars this morning.

Mr. Dixon—This is what he has given me, "Three sons at \$4 each per month." I want dates.

His Lordship—Have you got the dates, Mr. Morrell?

Mr. Morrell—Not the exact dates. It is for a beard for seven years.

His Lordship—I think you will have to give the dates. That is a very important part.

Mr. Morrell—The three sons were boarded since April 7th, 1902. The eldest son left him in 1904; another left him in 1907; and the third was still living with him.

The hearing was adjourned.

A Shanghai contemporary states that the action Heck v. Arnhold, Karberg and Co., which was originated many months ago in the German Consular Court here, will be argued in the Appeal Court at Leipzig this month. The action was brought by the plaintiff for recovery of damages against Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg and Co., for alleged wrongful dismissal, and, on account of the nature of the case, it created much interest here. The defendants gave as one of their grounds for dismissal that the plaintiff had refused to do work after five o'clock in the evening, and in answer to this the plaintiff referred to the practice in British firms, where the closing hour was five o'clock. Judgment was given for the defendants, and it is the appeal against this decision that is now being heard.

A SOLDIER'S DEATH.

Rather a gruesome story was told at the inquiry held at the Magistracy on Dec. 10th into the circumstances attending the death of Lance Corpl. Smith, of the Buffs Regiment. Mr. J. H. Kemp conducted the inquiry and the jury was composed of Messrs. A. Sinclair, W. Hardwick, and L. V. Langstein.

Detective-Sergt. Appleton spoke of being called to Murray Barracks on November 27th, where, on the east side between the oil store and the bread store, he found a large pool of blood. He traced the blood marks to the door of the guard room, about 50 yards distant. He examined the ground, but found no signs of a struggle. The razor produced was handed to witness by the adjutant. At the military mortuary witness saw the body of deceased, there being a large cut in the throat and teeth-marks on one of his hands. A perusal of deceased's correspondence threw no light on the subject.

Medical Officer Perry, R.A.M.C., stated that when he examined the body he found a large incisive wound about four and half inches long, about the larynx. It was a clean cut wound, and was deeper on the left side than the right. He also examined the body, and the only other marks of violence were teeth marks on the left wrist, the impression corresponding to the teeth of deceased. Witness was of opinion that this wound was self-inflicted.

Corporal Potter stated that he was returning to barracks when on getting near the oil stores he heard some-one gasping for breath. A moment later a man rushed out and fell at witness's feet. Witness saw that he was bleeding from the throat, and almost immediately the man got up and rushed towards him. Witness got the stretcher, and deceased was taken away.

Private Smith, who was in the company of the previous witness, stated that while the stretcher was being fetched deceased rushed at him in such a manner that witness ran to the guard room. Deceased followed, and came up the steps part way, and then fell down. On an endeavour being made to get him into the stretcher a violent struggle took place. Deceased was well liked by every one.

Another witness stated that near the place where he found the blood-stained razor he discovered a cap belonging to Private Marsh.

Mr. Kemp—I may say that the presence of Private Marsh's cap will be explained by a witness who cannot attend to-day, but who will be called at the next adjournment.

Witness added that deceased knew Private Marsh and was on friendly terms with him, being in the band together.

In consequence of four witnesses being unable to attend, the inquiry was adjourned.

A BOND OR AN AGREEMENT?

A case of some importance to the mercantile community, came before Mr. Justice Braddell sitting in the Supreme Court of the Straits Settlements recently, on appeal from the assessment of the Commissioner of Stamps. The question was whether an agreement of guarantee was to be stamped as a bond or merely as an agreement in writing. The Commissioner of Stamps assessed the stamp at \$200 and Messrs. Guthrie & Co., Limited, being dissatisfied with such assessment, appealed to the Court.

Mr. J. F. Wreford appeared for Messrs. Guthrie & Co., Limited, and Mr. P. J. Sproule, Acting Solicitor-General, for the Commissioner of Stamps.

His Lordship held that, according to the definition in the Stamp Ordinance, a bond for the purposes of such Ordinance was not only what is known to the law as a bond, i.e., an instrument under seal, but included any instrument in writing for the payment of money with a condition that the obligation shall be void if a specified act or condition is performed or observed or is not performed or observed.

In the document in question there was no such condition; it had evidently been carefully drawn to make the liability thereunder a continuing one; it was merely an agreement in writing to satisfy the statute of Frauds and, as such, was liable to a stamp of twenty-five cents. His Lordship directed the Commissioner of Stamps to refund \$199.75 and to pay the costs of the appeal.

THE STAMP ORDINANCE.

A PECULIAR SITUATION.

The case in which Messrs. H. Ruttonjee and Son were summoned for having failed to comply with the Stamp Ordinance, by not placing a stamp on a receipt for over \$25, was mentioned at the Magistracy on Saturday. Mr. Wood having dismissed the summons, the Crown appealed against the decision, and the Supreme Court remitted the matter to the Magistrate in order to impose a fine. Defendants were not present when their names were called, and Mr. Wood (the Magistrate) asked if they had been served with a copy of the order.

Mr. Dennys, who conducted the case for the Crown, said—I don't think defendant was served with a copy personally, I believe it went to Mr. Goldring, but if he has not been served he can be served now and I therefore ask for an adjournment.

Mr. Goldring (who watched the case on behalf of defendants):—There is no case to adjourn. The case was concluded at the previous hearing. There was nothing to bring Mr. Ruttonjee before the Court.

Mr. Dennys:—He got your Worship's note.

Mr. Goldring:—The order under the Ordinance provides that defendant must be summoned again.

Mr. Dennys—I understand defendant has been summoned.

Mr. Goldring—No; he only got the letter.

His Worship (to Mr. Goldring).—Can you give me any authority?

Mr. Goldring—The Ordinance in such appeal case refers to persons who are dissatisfied with the decision of the Magistrate and not to the Crown.

His Worship—The defendant has not got a new summons but the letter informed him the case would be called on so that the order of the Supreme Court might be obeyed.

Mr. Goldring read the letter which asked Mr. Ruttonjee "kindly call" at the Magistracy that morning.

Mr. Goldring—Immediately the case was dismissed at the previous hearing it was disposed of.

His Worship—There are no forms provided?

Mr. Goldring—No.

His Worship—I am told to summons defendant on a form. I sent a notification which gave all the information required.

Mr. Goldring—Yes. But I submit he must be summoned on a proper form.

His Worship—There are no forms.

Mr. Goldring—My contention is that the case is finished.

Mr. Dennys—If defendant has not been served with the order I would wish that he be so served and I ask for an adjournment so that he may be served.

His Worship—I don't think he is entitled to be served with the order. Defendant was in court and heard the order.

Mr. Goldring—Oh yes, he is.

His Worship—It bears the Registrar's signature.

His Worship—Can I hear evidence again?

Mr. Goldring:—A person cannot be summoned twice with respect to the same case.

The case was adjourned.

The case in which Messrs. H. Ruttonjee & Son were summoned for an offence under the Stamp Ordinance came on at the Magistracy on Dec. 10th before Mr. J. R. Wood. Defendants since the last hearing had been summoned from the Supreme Court. Mr. Dennys, from the Crown Solicitors' office, appeared for the prosecution and asked his Worship to impose a fine in respect of each of the three summonses. His Worship inflicted a fine of \$25 in respect of each proceeding, \$75 in all.

Another old-established Shanghai firm is being converted into a Limited Liability Company under the popular Hongkong Ordinances.

The firm of R. Lawrie Smith & Co., artistic decorators, complete household furnishers, general contractors and commission agents which has so long carried on a successful business at 28 Nanking Road, has been taken over by a limited liability company, with a capital of Tls. 100,000, in 2,000 shares of Tls. 50 each, only 1,500 of which are to be issued at present.

SHIPPING NOTES.

When the bald announcement is made that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has been able to declare a dividend at the rate of 13 per cent. for the past half year a dividend which the Company has maintained for many years now - it excites a little curiosity to know whether the shipping trade is, after all, so terribly depressed as it is commonly reported to be. It is therefore just as well to mention that, although the Company receives a heavy subsidy from the Government, the Directors a few months ago were faced with the gloomy prospect of being able to pay no dividend at all for the half year. That they have been able to do so is due entirely to the fact that the Directors resorted to drastic economies, stopping services on which they were losing heavily and dismissing a large number of officers. By these means the Company was able to make up leeway, and pay the regular dividend.

The President of the Company at the half-yearly meeting of shareholders was unable to make a hopeful forecast. He feared, indeed, that the Company would experience "far greater difficulty" in the immediate future than they had in the period just terminated. He stated the causes of the depression to be the continuing effects of the financial panic in the United States, the Chinese boycott of Japanese goods; the depreciation of silver; the business depression in China following upon the deaths of the Emperor and Empress Dowager of China; and, finally the volume of shipping traffic had been reduced by the restrictions on Japanese immigration into America, and further by the postponement of various public works which the Government of Japan had in contemplation.

It is, however, a long lane which has no turning. Mr. Koudo regarded economic conditions abroad as gradually assuming a healthy tone, and hoped that the marine trade of Japan would at no distant date recover its former position. The President also said it was reassuring to note that while in 1897, in the shipping entering the ports of Japan the Japanese flag was represented by only 20 per cent. in 1907 Japanese steamers represented about 44 per cent. of the shipping. That, of course, is due not to a diminution of foreign ships but to the extraordinary growth in the Japanese mercantile marine. The total tonnage entered at Japanese ports in 1897 was 3,700,000; in 1907 it was 20,000,000, so that foreign shipping now is represented by more than thrice the total tonnage entered which Japan ports ten years ago.

A Nagasaki despatch says that the Russian East Asiatic S.S. Co. has decided to withdraw all its steamers from Far Eastern waters, with the exception of the irregular liners running between Vladivostok and Hankow. We notice, however, the British Consul's report on the trade of Liban states that the Russian East Asiatic Steamship Company are building extensive offices there, and are going to make arrangements with the town authorities for building accommodation for the housing of emigrants with special rooms for their medical inspection, baths and luggage warehouses, which will cost some £40,000. Besides, they have had one large steamer, the *Russia*, built for them in Glasgow (now running), and, it is said, have ordered two more.

At the conclusion of the Russo-Japanese war the Imperial Marine Society of Japan decided to organise a Volunteer Fleet, which was to engage in trade in time of peace and act as auxiliary cruisers in wartime. The experience of the war having apparently demonstrated that such steamers were necessary, public subscriptions having been obtained to build two vessels, the "Sakura-maru" and "Umegaka-maru" were ordered from the Mitsu Bishi yard, and the first named was recently completed. It was arranged that the "Sakura-maru" should be put on the Formosan service under the management of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, and the Formosan Government was asked to contribute a subsidy of 260,000 yen per annum.

The Formosan Government would not agree to this and the arrangement to run the steamer under the management of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha has consequently had to be abandoned. The Marine Society has therefore decided to present the steamer to the Navy. Before the close of the year the "Umegaka-maru" will be launched, and doubtless she too will be handed over to the Navy.

The Pacific Mail steamer *Asia* seems to have had a terrible experience in a typhoon on her voyage across the Pacific to San Francisco. She encountered the gale on November 1st, just three days after she had left Yokohama. The seas were terrific. A curious thing connected with the water blown over and down into the smokestack was the fact that later when the smoke box was opened to steam the tubes there were found sixteen fish which had been sent down the funnel with the water that had been blown over and into the stack. Three lifeboats were washed away.

The latest "Shipping Strike" is at the Philippines. The native deckhands, stokers, coal-passers and oilers of the coastwise vessels were ordered by their union last week to stop work. The strike threatened to assume serious proportions and effectively tie up inter-island traffic. Latest mail news is that the strike has been settled, temporarily at least, by the tact and diplomacy of the Collector of Customs George R. Colton. The grievance seems to be not only inadequate pay, but "the abuses they are subjected to by the shipping company." At a meeting of shipowners and the labour leaders responsible for the walk-out, called at the instance of the insular collector, the matter was thoroughly discussed and Pedro Guevara, president of the "gremio de marineros" declared his willingness to use his good offices to have the strikers return to their work - this to enable the vessels cleared during the day to depart, and pending the settlement of the differences between the strikers and shipowners by arbitration. The perfection of organization and discipline of the union and the powerful influence that body exerts over the Filipino workmen is testified to by the fact that within five minutes after the close of the meeting, the striking employees were back on board of their vessels, steam was got up and the *Venus*, *Vizcaya*, *Dos Hermanos*, *Neil Macleod* and *Fernandez Hermanos*, tied up during the day, were getting under way to their respective destinations.

SPORTING NOTES.

Last Saturday's league cricket matches were not followed with very much interest because neither of the three leading teams were competing and the rest are at present so far out of the running that the results do not affect the competition to any appreciable extent.

Kowloon played the Royal Engineers on the Kowloon ground, disposed of them for 111 and succeeded in compiling 118 for the loss of seven wickets, thus winning fairly easily against a team which had beaten the Hongkong "A" team. Walter Dixon appears to have found his old form and is bowling better this season than he has done for some time. Martin's bowling on the other hand, appears to have lost a lot of it, sting. Power, playing for the R. E., put up a nice 45. He is a very useful man and would no doubt on present form be included in a representative Hongkong eleven.

The other match between the R.G.A. and Craigengower resulted in a draw. The only scores of any note being Lammert's 48 for Craigengower and Owen's 34 for R.G.A. Lammert's score was very creditable when one considers what havoc the R.G.A. trundlers made with the first half of the "B" team on the same ground three weeks ago. The position of the teams remains unchanged.

The league matches for next Saturday are Civil Service v. Telegraphs and R.G.A. v. Police. The Civil Service are very strong in bowlers this year, and should beat the Telegraphs, but it is its glorious uncertainty that makes cricket so fascinating a game. It is

probable that the scoring will not be big on either side. Reid, one of the Civil Service trundlers, gave a good account of himself against Canton on Saturday, securing four wickets for 15 runs in the first innings and three for nil in the second. On the previous Saturday he got four wickets in the last over, capturing the bat trick with his last three balls, playing against Craigengower.

The R.E.'s should beat the Police team unless their crack bat, Edwards, makes a stand. He is in good form this season and has put up some good scores already.

Shanghai is to have its Marathon Race. At least, such is said to be the intention of the recently formed Athletic Association, but as yet no public announcement has been made. Such an event, remarks the *Shanghai Times*, would undoubtedly be welcomed in the Settlement but plenty of time for training would have to be allowed, as a twenty-six mile run requires considerably more preparation than an eighteen mile walk. Shanghai has ideal roads for such an event, with the last mile round the race course, and it is hoped that the suggestion will not be allowed to fall through without a determined effort being made to hold the event. A committee has the matter in hand.

Thirty-seven matches have been arranged for the tour of the Australian cricketers next year. They include two each against Yorkshire, Surrey, Gloucester, and Essex, and Yorkshire and Lancashire combined and one each against the rest of the first-class counties and Scotland, Cambridge, Oxford, and the West of England. The tour will commence on May 6th.

THE FOREIGN POPULATION IN CHINA.

The returns of the foreign population of China for 1907 is given in the Customs return as 69,852 as follows:—

Japanese	45,610
British	9,203
German	3,553
Portuguese	3,188
American	2,862
French	2,201
Italian	854
Russian	479
Belgian	292
Dutch	286
Spanish	266
Austro-Hungarian	259
Danish	197
Norwegian	182
Swedish	157
Corean	41
Brazilian	1
Non-treaty Powers	219

The number of firms is given as 2,595 against 1,837 in 1906, an increase of 758, made up of Japanese 677, German 40, Spanish 30 and a few more divided over nine other nationalities. The British commercial attache notes that Norwegian firms decreased by 4, Dutch by 3 and Austro-Hungarian (17) and British (490) each by 2, but there are firms and firms, from big hongts to petty shopkeepers and numbers give no idea of the status or importance of commercial houses. These figures must be looked upon as only approximate, as it would be absurd, for example, to put the Russian population and commercial houses of the large city of Harbin, containing as it does thousands of Russians and hundreds of Russian firms and shops at 479 and 24 respectively."

Great sums of money, the British Consul says, have been expended on Government enterprises of all kinds at Chinan-fu, in Shantung, such as the mint, the arsenal, numerous schools and colleges, a model reformatory, two industrial schools, an agricultural college and forestry department, a steam silk filature, a steam flour mill, dredgers and much else, though now, since the accession to office of the present Governor, a policy of strict retrenchment which the German press in Tsingtau picturesquely characterises as "the iron broom" has set in with results still to be seen.

THE KING OF SIAM.

RECORD REIGN CELEBRATIONS.

ADDRESSES BY THE KING AND CROWN PRINCE.

At Bangkok last month to mark the fortieth year of the reign of His Majesty the King of Siam an equestrian statue of His Majesty was unveiled as a worthy mark of the appreciation in which the nation holds the benefits of the reign, and His Majesty laid the foundation stone of a new throne hall which, the *Bangkok Times* says, is destined to be not the least magnificent of the possessions of the Kings of Siam.

At the unveiling of the statue, H. R. H. the Crown Prince read an address of which the following is a translation:—

May it Please Your Majesty.

The Princes of the House and nobles, officers of Your Majesty's administration, both military and civil, together with the monks, priests, preceptors, squires, tradesmen and commoners, all Your Majesty's subjects assembled here to-day are jubilant at the thought that Your Gracious Majesty has now fully completed forty years of Your glorious reign. It is the reign in record that surpasses all those of the ancient Sovereigns of the Ayudhya epoch, from King Uthong the Founder of that ancient capital, down to the present time. Nor even in the history of the Siamese Nation of remoter past is there to be found reliable record of any Monarch that had equalled Your Majesty in the duration of rule. Were it for this unique historical distinction alone, our pride in Your Majesty's attainment would have sufficient reason, but we prefer to look further: in our estimation, a Sovereign is not to be judged by the length of his reign only, but we should rather seek to find how, under his long rule, he has promoted the welfare of the peoples; and if it can be shown that he has conscientiously striven to bring good to the nation, then can he be called a Sovereign who has not reigned in vain. Now, when we call to mind the degree of progress and prosperity Siam has attained during the last forty years, we are moved by feelings of appreciation for Your wise rule and of gratitude for the blessings which Your Majesty has bestowed on the State and the people in incomparable measure. I venture to say, Sire, that You are the Incarnate Sovereign of right divine, having come among us at the most opportune epoch when Siam endeavoured to tread from the old way to the new, the path of progress, for if it had not had the benefit of Your ripe Statesmanship, guiding the people by Your sagacious policy in the right path, this Land of the Free would never have reached the stage of advancement and prosperity which it now enjoys.

The instances of Your Majesty's love for Your people are too numerous for enumeration. It is a love as deep and as wide as the great ocean whose shores are beyond the range of human vision. Time would fail to detail even a tithe of them. What words could be found to extol the praise of that supreme act of grace, by which Your Majesty had granted unto Your people, liberty, making them free in fact as well as in name, the honoured patronymic of our Race. The sacrifice of inherent prerogatives did not deter Your Majesty from obeying the dictates of Your patriotic heart which places the interests of the nation at large always before Your own. This act of love is indeed an ornament that becomes a Sovereign rather than any coat of mail; it is a weapon mightier than all others, with which he is able to achieve that greatest of victories, the conquest of the hearts of men. For this can be done only by love and benevolence. In this respect then, You are a great Victor, for not only has Your Majesty won the heart of Your people but you have consolidated Your conquest with friendship and mercy. There could only be one feeling amongst Your subjects, that of devotion to Your person and a sense of security under Your protection. Even the people of other nations are unanimous in their admiration; they value the friendship of and international intercourse with our country because of the friendly feelings You have shown them that move them to appreciate Your rare qualities and wise administration.

The evidences of Your Majesty's sincere solicitude for Your people are before our eyes; how You are striving conscientiously to execute the sacred duties that devolve on You in all matters, in order to promote peace and happiness; how You are persuading Your subjects to follow in the path of righteousness and to eschew evil ways as a loving Father watches over his dear children; how You concentrate Your attention upon the fostering of the best interests of Your people as the highest aims of Your life, untiring in Your work, unsparing in Yourself, for You recognize no obstacle as insurmountable. Above all, as a man, Your Majesty has set Your Royal Person as an example for men, in strict probity, succeeding in this by Your fortitude and constancy.

Sire, what I have tried to say is but a feeble part of what is due to Your Majesty; but it will suffice to show how one and all of us regard Your Majesty with feelings of undying loyalty and devotion, a sentiment which will be handed down as a sacred inheritance to our posterity.

It is our cherished desire that there should be preserved for future generations, the testimony of national feelings for Your Most Gracious Majesty, and to this end we have resolved unanimously to erect a statue of our beloved King which shall for all times stand as a national monument of our heartfelt devotion to Your Royal Person. I am happy to mention that in this object foreigners enjoying the benefits of Your wise Rule have also participated in order to show their high esteem of Your Majesty.

The Statue has been completed and, with Your Majesty's permission, has been erected in the centre of the Open Court at Dusit Park.

With gladdened hearts, we now pray your Majesty to be pleased to unveil the Statue. This favour we crave shall be the augury of increased unity and prosperity of the nation under Your Majesty's benevolent Rule.

THE KING'S REPLY.

His Majesty read a reply of which the following is a translation:—

Princes, Nobles, and People!

Our heart is deeply touched by the friendly and joyful sentiments in praise of Ourselves and the sincere, albeit searching, appreciation of Our conduct during the past forty years, which have just been expressed on behalf of you all by Our very beloved son the Crown Prince.

We have felt no greater pleasure than when We listened to your repeated assurances that the efforts which We have made to govern the State and promote the welfare and prosperity of the nation have produced results which meet with your united satisfaction and approbation. It is, indeed, true that the mere number of years, however long, that a Sovereign has sat upon the Throne need be no cause for admiration, for though such an event as Our own long reign may perhaps be looked upon with appreciative wonder, seeing that no previous monarch has equalled it in our national history, yet there have been many sovereigns of other countries who have reigned quite as long and even much longer.

To Us, however, this lengthened period of Our own rule has a special significance in that it has enabled Us to pursue uninterruptedly a policy of Government upon which we had set Our mind.

Every ruler is faced by the problems and is given the opportunities peculiar to the time and place within which his lot is cast. Whether his rule has been truly beneficial to his people, depends on how well he has dealt with those problems and how successfully he has taken advantage of those opportunities.

It will be remembered that in the times of our more remote Royal Ancestors the chief cares of Government were fighting the country's enemies, repelling invasion, extending and consolidating the power of Siam, and, again, fostering the development of agriculture among the people. To these tasks they devoted themselves. There was little foreign trade, and what there was of it was confined to adjacent countries and carried on by only certain classes of the population.

When Our August Father came to the throne, he entered into friendly relations with foreign nations and opened the way to more extensive international commerce. This brought about an important change in the

existing condition of things, and while productive of great benefit to the people at large, it also involved a necessary alteration in the ways of government. Time was not permitted him, however, to carry these changes far and the measures then adopted could only be described as initial steps to suit the altered circumstances.

Upon Our succession, the necessity for further changes became more and more pronounced; it became apparent that the provisional measures introduced by Our Illustrious Parent were becoming inadequate, and that only a complete reform in the methods of administration would meet the new times and circumstances. To suddenly bring about sweeping changes in the deep-rooted institutions and popular ideas of a nation, without causing serious political disturbance, would be to attempt the impossible; and ways had to be considered whereby these reforms could be gradually but effectively introduced without producing any internal discontent. To accomplish this great aim thus became an object for constant thought and careful consideration of details to suit the progress of the times, and a strict watch was necessary in order that the opportunities to introduce improvements might not be allowed to pass by. It was in the nature of things that at the beginning the new institutions had no solid support on which they could rest. Everything had perforce to be created anew and—what is most important—the people had, to be educated in their ideas and ideals to an appreciation of the improvements. But such a result cannot be obtained in less than a generation.

For these reasons, the progress of reforms could not be so rapid as was desired. Furthermore, the condition of things outside Siam, was, at the same time, undergoing great changes, to such an extent that Siam was rapidly finding herself placed in a situation, created by surrounding circumstances, widely different from that in which she had stood from olden times. Hence it became incumbent upon us to endeavor to meet this changed external order of things, in addition to the attention given to our internal affairs.

The changes which have taken place during the last forty years are such as even five hundred years of our previous national existence could not have accomplished. It makes Us especially happy to think that it is We who have occupied the throne throughout these forty eventful years and have enabled our beloved country to be guided in the path of administrative improvement and national prosperity along the line of a single and continuous policy which has not swerved or retrogressed nor had its steady course checked or turned aside by any circumstance, down to the present day, with the result, as testified by you all, that our country and nation have attained the state of advancement and prosperity which is so evident. These results are, indeed, to Us a source of deep gratification.

It should not be left out of consideration that a sound and good administration must needs depend for its chief support upon a universal unity of sentiment. In former times, when our country stood aloof and had not entered upon intercourse with foreign nations, our own conception of things was limited, little things were regarded as great, and the scope of our aims and desires was circumscribed; each one acted according to his own narrow ideals. But when our country contracted international friendships with foreign Powers, and there arose the ardent desire to place the government on a firm basis in order to preserve the independence of the country and at the same time to foster the welfare of the people, then it became evident that nothing but mutual confidence and help among all, from Prince to peasant, could accomplish the end in view. This spirit of unity, too, is necessary if we would instil in the minds of the people a feeling that they may confidently trust in the Government to guide them in the path of prosperity and progress, to do away with injustice and oppression. The same spirit is needed to make them feel that they belong to one nation without regard to origin or religious faith, to inculcate a spirit of patriotism, and to encourage them in the pursuit of industry to better their general condition.

To produce all these happy results, a combination of circumstances was necessary—wisdom in administration, popular support, intelligence

to perceive and distinguish the useful and the detrimental, and, above all, the ability and experience to bring the great national aims to a happy consummation. In mentioning these, We have only enumerated some of the difficulties which had to be surmounted internally, and have chosen to omit the external factors which have exercised a retarding influence. Nevertheless, it is evident from the gradual but successful results we see at this present moment, that the true course of our national progress has not been materially interrupted.

The statue which you all have enthusiastically joined to erect in Our honor is a durable proof of the feeling of patriotism which animates your hearts and a testimony of your confidence and trust in your Ruler and the Government. It will serve as an incentive to greater efforts to create more happy results to our nation in the future.

To the citizens and subjects of foreign States who have so kindly manifested their good will by participating in the creation of this beautiful monument. We offer Our very sincere thanks; and to you, Princes, Nobles and Our good People, the memory of this great honor which you have done Us during Our lifetime will always remain a source of profound gratification, equalled only by Our pleasure at witnessing the united fervor and enthusiasm which you have displayed towards Us on this auspicious occasion. The occasion appeals to Us as a happy augury for drawing closer and closer the ties of friendship between Our nation and foreign countries, which can conduce only to increased prosperity for our country and help to stir the hearts of our people to renewed effort to raise the dignity of our beloved nation and spur us all on in the path of the highest national attainment.

We gladly accept your kind invitation, and will now unveil this lasting monument of the patriotism of the Siamese Nation. Long may it stand as a great nation's testimony to future generations.

THE KING AND THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY.

A banquet was subsequently held and at the conclusion one toast was submitted—that of the health of His Majesty, and the honour of proposing this fell upon Mr. A. H. BARLOW of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. Speaking on behalf of the assembled merchants of all nationalities—Siamese as well as foreign—he said:—

"Your Majesty.—We the commercial community, beg to offer to Your Majesty on this auspicious occasion the expression of our great respect and sincere congratulations.

"We tender to your Majesty our thanks for the encouragement which you have always been ready to give to the development of trade and commerce in Siam. We also thank Your Majesty for the honour you have done us to-night.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I propose the health of His Majesty the King."

The toast was received with the utmost enthusiasm and three hearty cheers were given, the band also playing the National Anthem.

Speaking in Siamese and in tones which could be distinctly heard all over the hall, the King replied substantially as follows:—

"We are pleased to see you all assembled here this evening and to hear the kind expressions offered us by the commercial community.

"The pioneers of trade in Siam have indeed been the merchants of foreign countries, from intercourse with whom there are now springing up, to Our great satisfaction, more and more Siamese traders. It is very beneficial to the commercial advancement of the country that merchants of many nationalities should meet and trade here, it is to their mutual advantage as well as to that of Siam.

"We appreciate the advance that trade has made in the land. Successful commerce is a great factor in promoting the progress of a country, and therefore we have always had at heart the encouragement of trade within Our dominions.

"We thank all who are present here to-night."

Siam has enacted a gold standard law. The coins are to be:—one gold coin value Tes. 10; three silver coins, one tical, two salung and one salung; two nickel coins, a ten satang piece and a 5 satang piece; one bronze coin, the one satang piece.

THE FILIPINOS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT.

"Are the Filipinos completely fit to rule their own destinies?" asks *El Renacimiento*. It continues:

"This is the great question that has been asked ever since the first days of American occupation of the Philippines. By an interrupted succession of events truly extraordinary and unexpected, the destiny of this people has been placed under the tutelage of the United States.

"Why are not the Filipino people masters of their own destinies and arbiters of their own fortunes?"

"A military occupation, the treaty of Paris by the terms of which Spain ceded to the United States the Archipelago known as the Philippine islands, America paying the sum of twenty million dollars for them; these are consummated facts and constitute strong arguments.

"We have been ten years in preparation for our self-government. Ten years of laborious experience. Ten years of bitter deceptions. Ten years of tutelage. And still the problem is unsolved. We are progressing very slowly in the opinion of Mr. Taft.

"This ancient question of the capacity of the Filipino people lends itself to all sorts of hyperboles which sagacious imperialistic politicians exploit admirably for the purpose of American expansion.

"There is good reason for us to doubt Mr. Taft's sincerity. Among the dark designs of imperialism ruling in the cradle of true democracy is the holding of the Philippines as the door of China, the key of the Pacific, a strategic base, a naval station, an endless storehouse of coal and wood. Naturally the people must be incapable of sustaining their own government for several generations.

"The most conservative Filipinos, those who form a part of the government, the most ardent supporters of the administration, do not hide their fears that the day will arrive when the dominating element will control the entire country and will not hesitate to stoutly oppose the idea of Taft to give the country independence after two generations.

CLOSURE OF VLADIVOSTOCK

Mr. Nomura, the Japanese Consul at Vladivostock, reports that the Bill relating to the discontinuance of the free port system at Vladivostock and ports along the Amur river was submitted to the Financial Committee early in the current session of the Duma. The fate of the Bill is somewhat dubious, but there can be no doubt as to its passage through the Duma, as the influence of the Ministers of State and Octoberists, who command a majority in the Duma, is too strong for the Opposition, even if the latter are backed by General Panteleff, chief military attaché to the Tsar. Opinion differs as to the probable date of the closure of the free ports, some naming January 1st (Russian calendar) next year, while others put it at about April next. The German traders resident in Russia recently forwarded a petition to the Russian Government soliciting that the law relating to the closure should be made public at least two or three months prior to enforcement. The enforcement of the law will no doubt have a serious effect on trade. As a matter of fact there was a big importation last Spring in anticipation of the closure of the free ports, and if there is a sufficient period between the promulgation of the law and the day of its enforcement, the traders will import as large a quantity of foreign made dutiable goods as possible. On the other hand the Russian manufacturers desire to have the period limited to a minimum. On this question much will be said in the Duma as well as in the Council Chambers. Although a belief obtains that the Bill will sooner or later be passed by the Duma yet the public is in the dark as to the probable date of closure of the ports. An impression however obtains amongst the principal merchants in Vladivostock that the law will come into force after March or April next year, if the Bill passes the Duma in the current session. The closure of the ports will prove a hindrance to Japanese merchants doing business on a small capital.—*Japan Herald*.

THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

HALF YEARLY REPORT.

The following are the accounts for the six months from April 1st to September 30th:—

	Yen.
Net profit	1,380,909.450
Brought forward from last account	310,551.715
Total	1,691,461.165
To reserve	690,045.470
Bonuses to officials	71,358.110
Dividend (10 per cent. per annum or Y.2.50 per share)	1,100,000.000
Special dividend (3 per cent. per annum or 50 sen per share)	220,000.000
Carried to next account	231,057.585

The following is the business report for the term:—During the period under review the Company employed on both coasting and foreign services 76 steamers of over 266,000 tons, and also nine chartered vessels of over 35,000 tons. The quantity of cargo carried was over 1,380,000 tons and the number of passengers over 160,000, the vessels covering over 1,670,000 miles.

Coasting Service.—Owing to the depression of business at home the shipping to and from the Hokkaido decreased considerably, as did also other coasting services. Such a discouraging state of affairs has never been experienced during the summer season in past years. As a result the Company was obliged to keep four liners idle during the term.

Far Eastern Services.—The depreciation in the price of silver on the Chinese market has greatly affected the export of Japanese goods to China, while the imports from China have also greatly decreased. Shipments to and from Shanghai were also smaller, while the shipments from Tientsin were equally discouraging. At Newchwang and Dairen, however, the Company's liners shipped abundant cargoes of beans and beancake for the return voyage. The shipments at Korean ports and Vladivostock showed a considerable diminution as against the previous period.

European Service.—The exports from Japan were nearly equal to those of last year in point of volume. The shipments from Shanghai and Hongkong, however showed a great falling off, while in the Straits Settlements and Colombo rather brisk business was done.

On account of the lower rates of freight, the receipts were not sufficient to cover the expenses. Since the beginning of August, commencing with the steamer *Hitachi maru* the cargo on the return voyage diminished considerably—so much so that more than half of the ships' cargo space was unused—a fact which has not been experienced since the opening of the European service.

American Service.—The economic depression both in the United States and Japan, coupled with the effect of the Chinese boycott of Japanese goods, has practically reduced the shipments both on outward and return voyages. On the return voyages the goods were so scarce that nearly half of the liners carried only 400 or 500 tons per vessel.

Australian Service.—On the outgoing voyages considerable activity was witnessed, but the return voyages saw a diminution on account of the economic depression at home. At Hongkong, the intermediate port, there was practically no shipments owing to the Chinese agitation against Japan.

Bombay Service.—Shipments from Japan were very dull during the period under review. The shipments from Hongkong and Singapore, however, showed an increase over the previous term. A remarkable feature was the fact that the shipments of cotton from Bombay diminished greatly, but there were large shipments of cotton yarn from Bombay to Hongkong and Shanghai. In fact, the shipments both on the outgoing and return voyages were nearly equal to those of an average year.

Passenger traffic. On the whole the passenger traffic on the coasting and the Far Eastern services was very dull. On the Australian and American services there was a considerable diminution in the number of third-class Japanese passengers, but the traffic on the European service was active throughout the present term. As compared with the corresponding period of last year, there was an increase of 50 per cent. in the number of passengers, but a decrease of 20 per cent. in receipts.

ARCHDEACON MOULE ON THE REFORM MOVEMENT.

AN INTERESTING COMPARISON OF THE NEW WITH THE OLD.

The Ven. Archdeacon Moule of Mid-China commenced a paper which he read at the Church congress last month with the following interesting observations:—

I presume that it is chiefly of new China that I am expected to speak to-day. But the old must be known and appreciated at its true value in order to estimate aright the real character and nature of the new. I have known the old, and I know much of the new, and I venture, with all diffidence, to apply to myself the opening words of the Lambeth Encyclical: "The links which bind me to the past are not fetters upon the free and enterprising spirit of sympathy and interest in the new, which is essential to progress."

I began my life in China in the year 1861, the year of the first Church Congress in England, when China was convulsed from end to end by the Taiping Rebellion. It was an essentially native movement, and Western nations took little part in its 20 years of conflict, except eventually to suppress it and help the Imperial power in its desperate state. Yet in the short period of the zenith of Hung-sentsuen's career at Nankin—instituted by his ablest and noblest lieutenant—a programme of reform for China was promulgated in no way behind the present programme of the sober reform party in the Young China of to-day. The country was to be thrown open to trade with all nations—fair if not free, and unrestrained by vexatious limitations: whilst the inner waters were to be open to steam navigations. Railways and telegraphs were to cross and recross the land: higher and modern education was proposed, while conserving the old; and the Bible was to be the chief text-book in schools. Westerners were no longer to be insulted and called after with opprobrious epithets, and the position of women was not only proposed to be raised, this practical reform was actually begun. Then China, after the two or three years of yet seething waters after the storm went down, fell pretty soundly asleep again, and the party of reaction held sway. But for the wide awaking, never to sleep again, of Japan at her side, and the uplifting of the apparently inevitable incubus of Russian ambition and aggression, and the more close and vivid influence of the outside world, I should myself not be surprised to see China go to sleep again. The desire for extended and high education rises, so we fancy, not from thirst for knowledge in itself and its beneficial influence on mind and character, but from the exaggeration of the truth that knowledge is power. The very uprising of Emperor and people against the trade in opium, and against its culture and vicious use, is not, we imagine, wholly moral, but again, stimulated by Japanese example, from the idea that to be bereft of opium means to be clothed with fighting powers. But yet that very desire, permeating all classes now (independent of the old provincial sovereign state likes and dislikes, prejudices or adoptions), the desire for the country's power, the moving and stirring of such patriotism as we knew very little of 50 years ago, is a sign that something broader and sounder and more lasting than the fixed and artificial reform acts of the Taipings is moving China; and she too, cannot go to sleep again.

THE JAPANESE NAVY.

Before the end of this year there will be two additions to the Japanese Navy, namely, the cruiser *Mogami* (1,350 tons) and the destroyer *Isonami* (381 tons). These two constitute an addition of 1,731 tons to the Navy's displacement, but, on the other hand the following vessels are to be struck off the effective list—the ancient ironclad *Fuso* (3,718 tons); the gunboats *Chokai* (750 tons) and *Miya* (950 tons); the cruiser *Matsushima* (4,210 tons), which was the flagship of Admiral Ito in the War with China; and eight torpedo-boats. These 12 discarded vessels represent a total displacement of 12,095 tons, and if from this aggregate we subtract the figures of the two new vessels mentioned above, the result is that the tonnage reduced amounts to 10,364.—*Japan Mail*.

THE INVENTION OF PAPER AND PRINTING.

The Chinese have been far ahead of us in many so-called modern inventions. In the *Asiatic Quarterly* Mr. A. H. Parker discusses the development of paper and printing in China. The first medium upon which words were written seems to have been strips of bamboo tied together, then slabs of wood. First varnish and then ink was used to mark the characters. But from the most ancient times it was an occasional practice to write with the varnished stick upon fine silken materials. But the application of the hair pencil and the formation of a kind of silk shoddy out of waste products of silk supplied new materials, which in the two centuries preceding Christ had begun to replace bamboo for writing purposes. Ink came to be used rather than varnish. Then—"In the year A.D. 105 however, a certain Ts'ni Lun, anticipating, in a way, the discovery of the late Lord Masham, conceived the idea of utilising the waste products of the silk manufacture, the "heads" of hemp, old fishing-nets and cloth rags for the purpose of turning out a much cheaper material than the silk paper hitherto in use, and from that day to this, paper, including in the modern forms mulberry paper, bamboo paper, and many other coarser kinds, has slowly but surely superseded all other materials used for writing upon."

Paper, hair brush and ink slab having arrived, the manufacture of writing ink out of varnish, soot, fir charcoal and other ingredients became a fine art in the third century after Christ:—

"The next step towards printing was taken much sooner than is commonly supposed. It had long been the practice of literary men to take paper rubbings of ancient inscriptions and calligraphic specimens cut into stone. This process, of course, left the characters it was desired to copy white, whilst the body of the paper pressed or rubbed on to the inked surface of the stone was black. The converse plan of cutting away the "Hinterland" of a stone block and allowing the body of an inscription to stand out in a raised form is known to have been practised as early as A.D. 523, when (to use the identical Chinese words) certain "images" (probably of Buddha) and "scriptures" (it is not stated whether Chinese or Sanskrit) were ordered by the Emperor of a new and very enterprising dynasty to be "carved upon wooden slabs." During the period 618-906 (dates are not to be procured exactly) it is certain that books of secondary importance were "printed upon paper" from "wooden blocks," and "sold in the book-shops." Curiously enough, it was a Turkish Emperor ruling in North China to whom officially belongs the honour of printing the Confucian classics for the first time in 932.

From 954 A.D. scholars were absolved from the heavy labour of copying books out. Movable types of baked clay were mentioned during the period 1041 to 1049. Movable types of copper were in use during the period 1368 to 1643. In the light of these facts, the old dispute between Caxton and Gutenberg loses interest."

BRITISH SHIPPING PAST AND PRESENT.

An interesting lecture entitled "British Shipping Past and Present" was delivered by Captain Brown to a good audience at the Y.M.C.A. rooms last night. The lecturer, whose life and experience made him a capable exponent of the subject, handled it in a very masterly manner. His discourse, which was made more interesting by reason of a number of lantern views illustrating different types of vessels from the days of the Vikings up to the present, was very comprehensive though not laboured and was listened to with marked attention. Captain Brown sketched the rise of the British mercantile marine from its earliest beginnings, the growth of our commerce, the development of the shipbuilding industry. In tracing the progress of steam navigation from the beginning of the last century down to the present, he remarked that at no period of the world's history had any particular century marked so stupendous a change in matters affecting the well-being of mankind as had been effected by the application of steam power to the purposes of locomotion on land and sea.

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE.

AN APPEAL TO HONGKONG.

Sir Francis Lovell, C.M.G., Dean of the London School of Tropical Medicine, is now in Hongkong for the purpose of obtaining funds for the support of this valuable institution. The School has so splendidly justified its existence, and has been the means of making contributions to medical knowledge of such vast importance to tropical countries that it comes as a surprise to learn that the amount of support it derives from the Home, Colonial and Indian Governments, together with the income from fees, mess charges, etc., still falls short of the annual expenditure (£2,800) by £700.

When Sir Francis Lovell paid his last visit to Hongkong six years ago, he induced the Government, to make a contribution of £100 a year to the school for five years, and one of the objects of his present visit is to induce the Government to renew the grant. The application, we believe, was under the consideration of the Executive Council yesterday. Though Sir Francis is making his appeal at a time when the Colonial revenue is suffering from the general depression, and is still further seriously threatened by the Home Government's policy with regard to the opium trade, yet it would be hard to deny a small contribution towards the support of the London School of Tropical Medicine whose work in the field of medical research, this Colony, in common with all other tropical colonies, has derived great material benefit. We have in mind especially the gratifying improvement in the malaria statistics which have followed the investigations conducted under the auspices of the School so completely establishing the mosquito theory or origin Sir Patrick Manson had entertained while in practice at Hongkong. In the early days of the Colony, as the cemetery at Stanley and the old portion of the cemetery at Happy Valley silently testify, malaria was a dreadful scourge here and down to the initiation of nullah-training and other measures to get rid of the mosquito, Hongkong remained "a bed of fever." Thanks primarily to the London School of Tropical Medicine, Hongkong to-day is a vastly more healthy place to live in. The hospital statistics of malarial cases in recent years have shown substantial and steady improvement.

It is of interest to know that some of the medical men in Hongkong have studied at the school, including Dr. Atkinson, the Principal Civil Medical Officer; Dr. Francis Clark, the Medical Officer of Health; Dr. Stedman, Dr. Belilos and possibly others. Moreover the staff of the School are always prepared to give help to workers on tropical subjects who cannot take furlough in England. On several grounds therefore the School has claims on the Colony's sympathy and support.

Some of the firms assisted the School with donations on the occasion of the last visit paid by Sir Francis Lovell, notably the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank and Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Limited, who each gave donations of \$500. Sir Francis hopes that the Colony both officially and in a private way will continue to aid the School which has still a great work before it.

A large sum (at least £25,000), needs to be collected before the permanence of the London School of Tropical Medicine can be regarded as assured, or before those who direct it can feel themselves justified in extending the sphere of its operations, more especially in the way of establishing much needed research laboratories in London, and of despatching properly equipped research expeditions to tropical countries. The School Authorities have authorized the Dean, Sir Francis Lovell, to collect on its behalf such a sum of money as will form an adequate endowment fund, and thus place the School on a satisfactory and permanent financial basis. They trust that this appeal will be liberally responded to by those individuals, companies, communities or governments who have already benefited by, or who appreciate the work and objects of the School, and who have a special interest in combating tropical diseases.

CHINA'S TRADE.

A SIGN OF IMPROVEMENT.

The Customs Gazette for the quarter, July to September, would seem to show some improvement in trade. The Customs revenue for the quarter amounted to Taels 8,336,050, as compared with Taels 8,197,127 for the corresponding quarter of last year. We give below the revenue obtained from the South China ports for the third quarter of this year and last:—

	1908.	1907.
Kowloon	Tls. 80,486	83,177
Lappa	77,118	83,190
Canton	880,423	859,116
Kongmoon	39,043	29,789
Samshui	53,699	57,794
Wuchow	156,059	149,639
Nanning	16,786	8,725
Swatow	391,391	378,311
Amoy	208,003	244,041
Foochow	252,489	269,865
Santiao	49,709	41,206
Hoihow	76,400	82,454
Pakhoi	39,746	33,246

It will be observed that the revenue shows a decline at Kowloon, Lappa, Amoy, Foochow and Hoihow; at all other ports it exhibits an increase.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

A meeting of this Council was held at the Board Room on the 17th November when there were present:—Messrs. W. H. Wallace (Chairman), Huang Ts'an-chew, W. Kruse, W. Wilson, the Health Officer and the Secretary. (Mr. C. Berkeley Mitchell). Ordinary routine business was transacted.

POLICE.

The Superintendent of Police reports the following cases have been dealt with at the Mixed Court since the last hearing:—*Summonses*—Allowing pigs and cattle to stray 7; Throwing rubbish &c. into the public drains 2; Creating a disturbance 2; Infringement of trade-mark 1; Assault 2; Debt 1. *Summary Arrests*—Grossly ill-treating a woman 1; Theft 1; Committing a nuisance 1; Breach of Opium Regulations 6; Hawking without a license 1; Drunk and creating a disturbance 2; Uttering counterfeit coin 1; Housebreaking 2.

TYPHOON FEARS.

On Dec. 8th the typhoon signals were hoisted and the event naturally caused no little excitement, at it is most unusual that a typhoon should be in the vicinity so late in the year. At night the red cone and drum were replaced by the three vertical green lights.

Steamers coming from the south report having experienced very rough weather and many of them were twenty-four hours late. The French Mail made a better trip than was expected and got in only a few hours late.

It was thought in the early part of the day that the typhoon was heading straight for the colony and the weather wise predicted that if it came the visitation would be particularly severe. Certainly the signs were confirmatory of this gloomy prognostication but as the night advanced without the storm breaking upon us it was evident that we had again escaped.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS:—

COAL.

HONGKONG, Dec. 12th.—The arrivals of coal since the 25th ultimo amounted to 26,939 tons of Japanese. The coal expected is 45,000 tons of Japan coal, 6,000 tons of Cardiff and 5,900 of Australian. Quotations according to Messrs. Hughes and Hough's circular are as follows:—Cardiff.....\$23.50 to \$ — ex-godown, sellers. Australian\$12.50 ex-godown, sellers. Yubari Lump...\$12.00 ex ship, sellers. Miiki Lump...\$10.50 to \$11.00 ex-ship, nominal. Moji Lump\$7.75 to \$9.50 ex-ship, steady. Moji Unscreened \$6.00 to \$8.00 ex-ship, steady. Akaike Lump...\$8.75 to \$9.00 ex-ship, steady. Labuan Lump...\$9.00 ex-ship sellers.

OPIMUM.

HONGKONG, December 10th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1180	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1190	do.
Malwa Older	\$1200	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1220	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$850	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$950	do.
Patna New	\$1000	per chest.
Patna Old	\$1125	do.
Benares New	\$1015	do.
Benares Old	\$ —	do.

HONGKONG, Dec. 10th.—Since the 26th ultimo the movements in the various Opium markets have been as follows:—

	Malwa	Patna	Benares	Persian
Stocks on the 26th Nov., 1908	921	3,657	1,337	902
Nov. 26th Imports per Dec. 10th	255	195	408	—
Dec. 3rd	—	—	—	—
Dec. 5th	—	—	—	—
Dec. 7th	—	—	—	—
Estimated Stocks this day	921	3,802	1,357	1,310
Less Exports to Shanghai	15	255	150	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight	—	383	251	200

Bengal.—Owing to the continued falling off in deliveries and to the meagre demand, prices have experienced a further decline to \$1095 for New Patna and \$1125 for Old Patna and \$1120 for New Benares.

Malwa.—Very dull indeed and deliveries poor.

Persian.—We quote superior drug at \$9450, but there is no demand.

YARN.

HONGKONG.—Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated 11th December, states:—Nothing of interest has occurred during the past fortnight, and it would appear that resumption of demand is not looked for until the country is more settled and confidence in the stability of the present regime at Peking is fully restored. Meanwhile with the exception of a few trifling purchases for urgent and immediate requirements business is at a standstill. Dealers are keeping entirely aloof and await developments, whilst importers having in view the paucity of stocks and declining exchange are not anxious to sell unless at an advance. The market closes quiet but firm. Bombay is reported steady. The mills there have not been doing badly during the past twelve months, as is evidenced by the recent boom in all Cotton-mill shares, which have appreciated 10 to 20 per cent. in values, and with the American crop estimate of about 13½ million bales and a good Indian crop, there seems to be every probability of another year of prosperity to the textile industry of that port. Sales of the interval aggregate 750 bales, arrivals amount to 8,213 bales, unsold stock estimated at 16,000 and sold but uncleared Yarn landing and in Godowns about 18,000 bales. Local Manufacture.—Nothing doing. Japanese Yarn.—No business is reported. Raw Cotton.—A moderate inquiry has been experienced and some 425 bales superfine Bengals have changed hands at \$25 to \$26 leaving a stock of \$10 bales on the market. In China Kinds 50 bales Thoongchow have been sold at \$29½. Stocks 180 bales. Quotations are Indian \$23 to 26½ and China \$26 to 39½. Exchange on India continues its downward course in sympathy with silver and closes unsteady to-day at 1s. 127 for T/T and Rs. 127½ for Post. On Shanghai 75½ and on Japan 82½. The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the week ended the 29th ultimo, viz:—Indian.—The aggregate of sales amount to about 500 bales at or about previous quotations, market closing quiet but firm. Estimated unsold stock about 10,000 bales. Market closing firm. Japanese.—Market steady with small stocks, sales about 400 bales on the basis Tls. 96 to 105 for No. 16s and Tls. 105 to 113 for No. 20s. Local.—Market quiet but steady, no business from first hands.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 12th December:—Few demands having come forward, the price is slightly declining.

Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$5.30 to \$5.40
Round, Good quality	5.05 to 5.10
Long	5.30 to 5.45
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	4.90 to 4.95
Garden, No. 1	5.00 to 5.10
White	5.20 to 5.30
Fine Cargo	4.85 to 4.95

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. of Shanghai in their latest Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 4th December states:—So far as this branch of the trade is concerned there is very little to say. The position is certainly no worse than it was, and the surroundings are undoubtedly improving. The financial crisis that was so greatly feared, and on which trade generally was actually on the verge, has happily been averted and anxiety on that score very much allayed. The continued drop in Exchange has assisted largely in fostering the export trade and releasing money that was thus locked up, thereby affording relief to the stringency that has been prevailing for sometime, the rate of interest in the Native money market being now about normal. It is looking now as though the trouble that was expected at China New Year approached has to a great extent been discounted and that confidence is being gradually restored, and with the low exchange small encouragement is held out for the importation of fresh supplies to compete with what is here already. The wise decision arrived at by the Powers that be in the Capital to hasten forward the coronation of the new Emperor has met with approval on all sides, thus clenching the arrangements that have been so well thought out. To-day the ceremony takes place, the national mourning being temporarily suspended all over the Empire. If this passes off without trouble it will show conclusively that the present Government can be relied upon, and great credit will be due to those who are directing the affairs of State. Nothing could have been done better to restore the confidence of the country, and this should go largely towards the revival of trade both domestic and foreign. The one tumbling block, which will no doubt be now speedily removed under an enlightened Government, is the currency question, which is at present in a state of utter chaos and must undergo radical reformation. During the interval the dispute that was pending regarding a new tax on goods landed at Kiaochow has been arranged and shipments thence resumed, this no doubt accounting to a great extent for the rather better clearing experienced in some quarters. It is also reported that an important question regarding the fineness of Silver as legal tender, which has been a bone of contention in Tientsin for some time past, has been satisfactorily settled during the past week and it is hoped will assist in the betterment of trade in that quarter. It is pointed out that there is some difficulty in eradicating the credit system there all at once, as the Native indentors of goods claim that as a part of their contracts and threaten to repudiate them entirely if the privilege is not allowed. Newchwang news continues satisfactory and there seems to be a demand for goods there, as shippers are trying to make arrangements to ship via Dalny if reasonable terms can be made. Trade on the Yangtze is very slack still, although all the troubles up there appear to be over. Advice from Manchester are being much curtailed, both buyers and sellers recognizing the futility of trying to do anything at present. The only indication of the position is a further slight decline in Yarns. American Cotton has been subject to considerable fluctuations in Liverpool during the interval Middling finally settling down to 4d. spot and 4.69½. February/March option. Egyptian is up to 8½d. The Export figures for last month are not yet in. The New York market keeps very firm and no business is possible for this. Cotton has declined to 8.86 cents for January. As regards the question of freights on goods to China the old Companies appear to have decided to revert to the former order of things. The following extract from the British Export Gazette of 21st October may edify some of our readers:—“In China the Cotton Mills of Shanghai are now supplying much of the Sheetings, Shirtings and Drills for the district, imports from American having fallen off in consequence, though the purchase of

British goods remains at about the same level. Some of the new Mills (?) which are being erected by native capital are being installed with the most modern electrically-driven machinery and the industry will without any doubt make further rapid progress. And under the heading "Large prospective call for Machinery"—after speaking of the rapid progress of the Jute Manufactory in Calcutta, the same paper remarks "almost as progressive are the newer Chinese Silk factories, although to some extent both in China and Japan cotton garments are displacing those of the costlier material." Another extract is worth producing, namely—"As regards the East, Japan was a growing market during the half year for cotton goods, but the demand for these from China, for some inexplicable reason not at present solved, show a marked falling off." Evidently the pessimistic reports that have emanated from here have not made much impression in the homeland. As regards the falling off in the demand referred to a glance at Messrs. W. Nott & Co.'s statistics for the period ending 30th September shows that "Bleached and white" and "Unbleached Grey" show increases of 10,188,800 yards and 35,691,100 yards respectively over the previous year, which from the point of view on this side is certainly inexplicable, while the decreases which Dyed and Printed goods show, namely 52,757,700 yards and 15,619,800 yards respectively, many importers here are regretting were not twice or three times as great. The Yarn market is almost as stagnant as that for piece goods, but there is more evidence that buyers are withholding orders and may resume buying at any moment. Some operators here consider it a favorable time to contract for Japanese Spinnings and some fair lines have been booked for forward delivery. Native Cotton is firmer in view of the more favourable prospect of an demand. We do not think that a single actual sale has been made from first hands, any demand that has appeared being supplied by good already in second hands, and mostly enjoying free storage in Importers' Godowns. It is therefore quite impossible to report any private market, but we understand a few 40 yard Beaver Jeans have changed hands amongst the natives at Tls. 7.10, and some 4 yard Sheetings at Tls. 4.25 for 12 inch fold and Tls. 4.35 for 18 inch fold. The only quotation we have heard as telegraphed from New York is 10s. 3d. for 3 yard Sheetings, the equivalent of Tls. 4.95 here for what Tls. 4.50 cannot be obtained! The only business practically from first hand continues to be at the Auctions, last Thursday's the 26th ulto showing fairly steady prices for the lighter weights of Grey Goods, and steady to firm for the heavier makes. In the Bleached Goods the ordinary reeds did not show up very well in spite of reduced quantities, but the better makes and Irishes were generally firmer. It is curious to compare the present prices for these goods with those ruling at the beginning of the year, some of the discrepancies being really quite remarkable. In Cloths and Jeans, were barely steady for most chops. Turkey Reds are not improving with the reduced quantities, but are probably only being bought on speculation now. Fast Black Cotton Italians with few exceptions sold at better prices than the previous week. Venetians were steady. At the Ewo sale this morning the tendency was firmer throughout for Cotton Goods, and it was not found necessary to withdraw any of the Woollens but prices were not very satisfactory.

HONGKONG PRICES CURRENT.

HONGKONG, 12th December, 1908.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. piece	\$1.90	\$—
7 lbs. "	2.30	to 2.60
8.4 lbs. "	2.90	to 4.15
10 lbs. "	4.25	to 5.50
White Shirtings—54/56 reed ..	2.75	to 3.75
58/60 "	3.75	to 6.05
64/66 "	6.20	to 7.25
Fine "	8.15	to 9.25
Book-folds "	3.25	to 6.25
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ..	0.50	to 2.00
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y ..	2.00	to 2.25
7 lbs. "	2.30	to 3.40
6 lbs. "Mexicans," ..	—	—
7 lbs. "	2.75	to 3.85
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) ..	3.25	to 4.25
Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/2 to 14 lbs. }	4.50	to 5.50

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 6 lbs. piece }	\$1.87 1/2	to \$4.20
Brocades—Dyed yard	0.11	to 0.15
Chinese—Assorted "	0.09	to 0.15

FANCY COTTONS—

Velvets—Black, 22 in., "	0.25	to 0.55
Velveteens—18 in., "	0.20	to 0.29
Handkerchiefs—Imitation } Silk per dozen }	0.50	to 2.00

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	yard	\$0.70 to \$2.00
German, "	0.60	to 0.70
Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths, ..	1.25	to 3.00
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs. piece	8.25	to 9.50
Assorted "	8.40	to 9.65
Camlets—Assorted "	12.00	to 31.00
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches } Assorted }	13.00	to 19.00
Orleans—Plain "	10.00	to 12.00
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	0.65	to 1.50

RAW COTTON—

Bombay picul	\$23.00	to \$25.00
Bengal (New), Rangoon	—	—
and Paoca "	23.00	to 26.00
Shanghai and Japanese, ..	26.00	to 28.00
Tungchow and Ningpo ..	26.00	to 28.00

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod picul	\$ 4.30
Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.) ..	4.20
Swedish Bar "	4.40
Small Round Rod "	4.75
Hoop, 1/2 to 1 1/2 in., "	3.60
Wire, 16/25 oz., "	9.50
Old Wire Rope "	3.00
Lead—L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop ..	—
Australian "	9.20
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14 28 oz.	41.00
Vivian's, 16/32 oz., "	41.00
Elliot's, 16/28 oz. "	41.00
Tin, box	8.05
Tin-Plates, box	8.05
Steel cwt. case	—

MISCELLANEOUS—

Quicksilver, picul	175.00
Window Glass, box	4.80
Kerosene Oil, case	—
Salt-petre, No. 1 picul	\$11.90 to 12.30
Do. No. 2 "	11.30 to 11.70
Do. No. 3 "	10.30 to 10.50

WHEATEN FLOUR—

Dayton, per bag of 50 lbs. gross	\$2.35
Choice "	2.50
White Lily "	2.50
Morjon "	2.50
Morning Glory "	2.50
White Fawn "	2.48
Cow "	2.48
Ghess "	2.48
T.H.L. "	2.48
Coxcomb "	2.48
Stove "	2.48
Sperry's XXX "	3.20
Pioneer "	2.75
Anchor "	2.42
Charon "	2.12
Junak "	2.42
Dog "	2.42
Cash "	2.42
Duck Lily "	2.42
Peerless "	2.38
Kilin "	2.38
Blue Ribbon "	2.44
Reardon "	2.40
White Rose "	2.44
Serene Sky "	2.38
Gluten "	2.37
Lobston "	2.37

EXPORTS:—

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. in their Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated 4th December, report as follows:—Gallnuts.—A continued good business in Plumshaped.—New season's Usual Gallnuts are now beginning to arrive. Cowhides.—The demand from home continues.—Sellers reluctant, as arrivals are not as plentiful as is usual at this time of the year. Feathers.—Business very quiet, owing to poor demand from home.—Feathers have arrived in good quantities and sellers are in consequence reducing their prices.—Cotton.—While our market was easier last week, a renewed demand from Japan has again steadied prices. Tallow.—Brisk demand.—Market steady. Strawbraid.—No business except in White Loyer and Kwangchow, prices of which have advanced further. Wool.—Sheeps.—Szechuen cargo expected by end of the month? Dealers will probably ask a considerable advance over prices at which they sold last month.—Business is, nevertheless, likely to result, as there is a very goods demand from America. Wood Oil.—Market quiet. Antimony.—A Good business.—The strong enquiry from Europe continues.

HANKOW, 2nd December.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected Tls.	39.25
Do. seconds "	35.00
Buffalo hides, best selected "	23.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white, colour, "	—
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each ..	—
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi "	9.10
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu ..	8.40
Green China Grass, Szechuen "	—
Jute "	3.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	10.80
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	10.80
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	—
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu "	11.00
Animal Tallow "	11.50
Gallnuts, usual shape "	16.00
Gallnuts, plum do. "	17.80
Tobacco, Tingchow "	—
Tobacco, Wongkong "	—
Black Bristles, Riflings "	—
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck ..	—
Turnerie "	—
Sesamum Seed "	4.90
Sesamum Seed Oil "	—
Wood Oil "	8.30
Tea Oil "	—

Per M. M. steamer *Armand Behic*, sailed on 8th December, 1908.—For Marseilles.—60 bales raw silk, 3 cases silk goods, 2 bales waste silk, 5 cases feathers, 4 cases human hair, 40 cases joss stick, 33 cases hats, 5 cases ylang ylang. For London—5 cases cigars. For Lyon.—80 bales raw silk. For Barcelona.—31 cases silk goods, 5 bales raw silk. Montreux.—5 cases flour.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 12th December.—The tone of the market remains unchanged; price \$83.50—\$84.50.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 11th December, 1908.—A fair business has been transacted on a steady market during the week. Rates have not materially altered and we have no special features to report. Sterling and Barsilver have ruled rather firmer and close at 22 1/2 and 1s. 8 1/2 d. T. T. respectively.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai after a few further sales at 850 in the early part of the week ruled rather quieter, and with a few shares on offer at that rate the advance reported in recent issues received a check. The market, however, closes very steady at quotation both here and in the north, and offers to buy at lower rates meet with no response. Shanghai quotes Tls. 885 (ex 73), which at the current rate of exchange is equal to 849 in Hongkong. Nationals unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue scarce and the demand still existing, the rate has improved to 825 buyers without any reported sales. Cantons have changed hands at 195, and a reported sale at 197 1/2, the market closing steady at the former rate. Yangtzes are enquired for at \$160, and North Chinas have improved to 10 1/2 with small sales.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong remain neglected at 330, with sellers and no sales to report. Chinas have continued in favour, and after sales at 104 and 105, close steady at the latter rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been placed at 29 1/2, sellers ruling the market at time of closing. Indo-Chinas continue badly neglected. Douglasses are still enquired for at 33, but no shares are forthcoming. Other stocks under this heading all for no comment.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled weaker with some shares on offer and no business to report. Luzons remain neglected.

MINING.—Raub have been dealt in to a considerable extent at rates between 8 and 9 1/2, closing weaker with sellers at 9 1/2. Chinese Engineering have improved in the North to 16 1/2, and Langkats to 890.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Docks remain neglected with sellers at 91 and no sales to report. Kowloon Wharfs are also very quiet.

at 44 with sellers and no sales. Shanghai Docks have failed to maintain their position in the North and have declined to 75 cash, with local sales at that and at 77 for March.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—We have no changes or business to report under this heading, with the exception of small sales of Humphreys at 9½.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have improved to 71 with buyers in the North. Internationals to 60 and Soy Chees to 250. Whil Lion Kung Mows have declined to 70.

MISCELLANEOUS.—We have nothing to report under this heading except sales of Cements and a demand for Wansens. China Providents, Union Water Boats, and Electrics at quotations.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$850, sellers
National B. of China	26	London £-2
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$8, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$11, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 } { \$1 }	{ \$5, sellers } { \$9.75, buyers }
China Provident	\$10	
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 71, buyers
Hongkong	\$10	\$10, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 60, buyers
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 70, buyers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 250, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$32½
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$44, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$30	\$91, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$9½
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 75, sellers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 137½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$12, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$10, sales & sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$190, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$18, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$30, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$230, sellers
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$24
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$195, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$105, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$87½
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$330, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 102½, sales
Union	\$100	\$825, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$160
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$93, sellers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$9½, sales & sel.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35, sales
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 116½
West Point Building	\$50	\$46, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Pcs. 250	\$580, buyers
Raub	18/10	\$9½, sellers
Peak Tramways	{ \$10 } { \$1 }	{ \$14 } { \$2 }
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$112½
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$20, sellers
Robinson Piano Co.	\$50	\$59, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$14, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$33, buyers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$29½, sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	25	{ \$37, sellers } { \$17, sellers }
Shell Transport Co.	21	48/-
Star Ferry	\$10	\$24
Do. New	55	\$15, buyers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$24
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M & Co.	\$10	\$9, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$7	\$4, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$2½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Wiemann Ltd.	\$100	\$150
United Asbestos	\$4	\$12½
Do. Founders	\$10	230
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

3rd December, 1908.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$875, sales
National of China	26	\$51, buyers
Russo-Chinese	R187½ T125	Tls. 175, sellers
Insurance—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$790, sellers
North-China	25	Tls. 95, buyers
Yangtze Assocn.	\$60	\$165, sellers
Canton	\$50	\$225, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$312½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$101, buyers
Shipping—		
Indo-China { pref. } { def. }	£10	Tls. 38, buyers
Shell Trans. { ord. } & Trading { pref. }	£1 10	{ £25.0, sellers } { £9.10, sellers }
S'hai 'Tug & { ord. } Lighter { pref. }	T50	Tls. 51, sellers
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 48, sellers
Kochien Transportation & Tow Boat	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
S'hai Dock & Eng.	T100	Tls. 77½, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$105, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf	T100	
H. K'loon W. & G.	\$50	\$49, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217½, sellers
Sugar Companies—		
Perak Cultivation	T50	Tls. 85, sellers
China Refining	\$100	\$132½, sellers
Mining—		
Raub Australian	{ £1 } { 18/10 }	{ \$8, sellers } { Tls. 15½, buyers }
Chinese Eng. & Min.	£1	
Lands—		
S'hai Investment	T50	Tls. 116½, sellers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$99, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Weihaiwei	T25	\$9, sellers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 100, sellers
Cotton—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 67½, buyers
International	T75	Tls. 56, buyers
Laou Kung Mow	T100	Tls. 70, buyers
Soy Chee	T50	Tls. 245, buyers
H'kong C. S. W. D.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Industrial—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 117, buyers
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 14, sellers
China Flour Mill	T50	Tls. 40, sellers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 45, sellers
Green Is. Cement	\$10	\$10, sellers
Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat	Gs 100	Tls. 890, sellers
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco	T20	
S'hai Waterworks	£20	T. 420, buyers
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$85, buyers
A. Butler Cement, Tile Works	50	\$25, sellers
Kalumpong Rubber	50	Tls. 57, buyers
Eastern Fibre	10	nominal
Shanghai Electric Construction	£10	£7.10 sellers
Miscellaneous—		
Hall & Holtz	\$20	\$20½, sellers
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$58, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Central Ordinary	\$15	\$13½, buyers
Central Founders	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co.	\$50	\$47, sellers
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$24, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$16, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$98, sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 6, sellers
Tsingtao Hotel Co.	\$100	nominal
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$152½, buyers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$47½, sellers
S'hai Horse Bazar	T50	Tls. 42½, sellers
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 57, buyers
China Im. & Ex. Lumber	T100	Tls. 83, sellers
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	\$23, sellers
Dallas Horse Repository	T50	Tls. 25, sellers
Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 50, sellers

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. of Shanghai in their Share Report for the week ending December 3rd, 1908, state:—There has been a fair amount of business put through since our last issue, but for the first time for some weeks rates in Maatschappij, etc. in Langkats do not show any change of importance, remaining steady in the neighbourhood of Tls. 900 per share. In Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves a considerable number of shares have changed hands, and the rate has varied a good deal. Generally speaking the December Settlement claims most attention, but a considerable business has also been done for March delivery. Banks.—H. & S. Banks. A good demand set in this week and no shares being obtainable at the current market rate of \$875, the rate improved to \$885. This is the equivalent of \$850 in Hongkong. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/2½ Marine & Fire Ins.—North-China Insurance. A sale has taken place at Tls. 97½. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co. A fair amount of business has been done in the ordinary shares, and the rate has improved from Tls. 45 to Tls. 48. Small Lots of Preference shares are on the market at Tls. 51. Docks & Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. A good demand has prevailed. The cash rate obtainable last week was Tls. 72 only, but at the close to-day there are buyers at Tls. 77 for cash and Tls. 77½ for December. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co.—Our market opened with sales for December at Tls. 145 and Tls. 144. Large quantities of shares were on the market with the result that rates quickly declined and on the 28th ult. business was reported as low as Tls. 137½ for December. Since that date there has been a better feeling. Cash shares which were offered at Tls. 138, Tls. 138½, Tls. 139, Tls. 140 and Tls. 142 were all taken up, and we would quote our rates at closing as Tls. 142 for cash and Tls. 142½ for Dec. Sugars.—No business reported. Mining.—No business reported. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment Co. Shares are wanted at Tls. 116½. Anglo-French Lands are inquired for at Tls. 100. Industrial.—Ewo Cottons.—A fairly extensive business has been done in these shares during the week but hardly any change in the rate is to be reported. Cash shares have been dealt in at Tls. 67 and Tls. 67½. For December Tls. 68 and Tls. 68½ and for March at Tls. 72 and Tls. 73. Shanghai Gas Co. Shares are wanted at Tls. 117. Maatschappij &c. in Langkats. There has not been the same attention given to these shares that has prevailed for some time past, and rates have been easier on the whole. The highest rates recorded this week were Tls. 900 for cash, Tls. 910 for December, and Tls. 960 for March, and since the 28th inst. when these prices were obtainable our market has been quiet. We would quote at closing the cash rate of Tls. 890 and for December Tls. 900, with sales for March at Tls. 930. Shanghai Sumatra Talacco Co. There have not been any buyers for some time and their absence yesterday tempted a seller to dispose of shares at Tls. 120 for March, to be quickly followed by a purchase at Tls. 127½. It is difficult to find the exact hang of this market, but at Tls. 118 for December and Tls. 125 for March shares could be placed. Shanghai Waterworks are wanted at Tls. 415. Miscellaneous.—Rates will be found as appended below. Loans and Debentures.—There is no business recorded this week.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, December 11th

ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer	1/8½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/8½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	212½
Credits 4 months' sight	217½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	173
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	41½
Credits, 60 days' sight	42½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	127
Bank, on demand	127½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	127
Bank on demand	127½

ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	75½
Private, 80 days' sight	76½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	82½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	83
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	72½
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	101½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	9½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	9½ p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	90½
FOREIGNERS, Bank's Buying Rate	
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	
BAR SILVER per oz	

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent. discount.
Chinese	20 cents pieces ..	\$3.96
	10 " " ..	5.17
Hongkong	20 " " ..	3.65
	10 " " ..	3.75

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG 11th December.—There has been only a limited demand for tonnage during the period under review. From Saigon to Hongkong, 8 cents per picul; to Philippine, 17 cents last; to Java, 20 cents. Bangkok to Hongkong, nothing doing. From North Coast Java to this, no further demand. From Tairen to Canton, two fixtures at 25 cents. Coal freights are firm. From South Japan Coal port to Hongkong, \$1.50/1.60 per ton offering; to Canton, \$2.15; Singapore, \$1.80. From Hong y to Hongkong \$1.20; Canton, \$1.40. A medium sized carrier has been closed from Rajang to this, with timber.

FREIGHT.

Hankow, 2nd Dec.—Per Conference Steamers, To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload; Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 at 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December:—	
ARRIVALS.	
4, Denbighshire, Br. str., from Shanghai.	
5, Ariaki Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.	
5, Esang, British str., from Newchwang.	
5, Gregory Apar, Br. str., from Singapore.	
5, Hangchow, British str., from Swatow.	
5, Hongmoh, British str., from Singapore.	
5, Kohsichang, German str., from Bangkok.	
5, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
5, Merapi, Dutch str., from Samarang.	
5, Quinta, German str., from Chinkiang.	
5, Simongan, Dutch str., from Singapore.	
5, Waishing, British str., from Chinkiang.	
6, Bannockburn, Br. str., from Nicolaveff.	
6, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.	
6, Hsin Chang, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
6, Istria, German str., from Singapore.	
6, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.	
6, Prometheus, Nor. str., from Wuhu.	
6, Shaohsing, British str., from Shanghai.	
6, Singan, British str., from Haiphong.	
6, Sithonia, German str., from Shanghai.	
6, Tjipanas, Dutch str., from Paloe Lavet.	
7, Aldenham, British str., from Yokohama.	
7, Armand Behic, Fr. str., from Shanghai.	
7, E. Simons, French str., from Marseilles.	
7, Hakata Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.	
7, Manchuria, Am. str., from San Francisco.	
7, Marie, British str., from Newchwang.	
7, Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.	
7, Choshun M., Jap. str., from Shanghai.	

7, Siam, Danish str., from Singapore.	
7, S. van Langkat, Dut. str., from Nagasaki.	
7, Tarang, British str., from Palan Island.	
7, Tingsang, British str., from Wuhu.	
7, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.	
8, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.	
8, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.	
8, Jonawanda, British str., from Haiphong.	
8, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.	
8, Luchow, British str., from Wuhu.	
8, Segovia, German str., from Shanghai.	
8, Yusen Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.	
9, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from H'phong.	
9, Cheangchow, British str., from Singapore.	
9, Ningpo, British str., from Swatow.	
9, Rubi, British str., from Manila.	
10, Aragonia, German str., from New York.	
10, Astyanax, British str., from Singapore.	
10, Chihli, British str., from Haiphong.	
10, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
10, Clara Jeben, Ger. str., from Haiphong.	
10, Claverdon, British str., from Cardiff.	
10, Ischia, Italian str., from Bombay.	
10, Zweena, British str., from Samarang.	

DEPARTURES.

5, Bourbon, French str., for Saigon.	
5, Chenan, British str., for Ningpo.	
5, Hanoi, French str., for K. C. Wan.	
5, Ithaka, German str., for Hankow.	
5, Japan, British str., for Singapore.	
5, Kamo Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.	
5, Nile, British str., for Shanghai.	
5, Onsang, British str., for Singapore.	
5, Shinchiku Maru, Jap. str., for Takao.	
5, Siberia, American str., for San Francisco.	
5, Taiwan, British str., for Dalny.	
5, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.	
6, Benyick, British str., for Manila.	
6, Chowtai, German str., for Swatow.	
6, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.	
6, Daiya Maru, Jap. str., for Wakamatsu.	
6, Denbighshire, British str., for London.	
6, Glenogle, British str., for Amoy.	
6, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.	
6, Hopsang, British str., for Saigon.	
6, L. Scheiff, German str., for Tamsui.	
6, Palembang, Dutch str., for Palembang.	
6, Sexta, German str., for Hongay.	
7, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.	
7, Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.	
8, Armand Behic, Fr. str., for Europe, &c.	
8, Bannockburn, British str., for Dalny.	
8, Ernest Simons, French str., for Shanghai.	
8, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.	
8, Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.	
8, Hongmoh, British str., for Amoy.	
8, Huichow, British str., for Tientsin.	
8, Istria, German str., for Shanghai.	
8, Kaga Maru, Jap. str., for Seattle.	
8, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.	
8, Sithonia, German str., for Singapore.	
9, Ariaki Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.	
9, Bints Thuan, French str., for Manila.	
9, Hakata Maru, Jap. str., for London.	
9, Loyal, German str., for Bangkok.	
9, Siam, Danish str., for Shanghai.	
9, Taming, British str., for Manila.	
10, Amara, British str., for Hongay.	
10, Choshun Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.	
10, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.	
10, Hsinchang, Chinese str., for Shanghai.	
10, Monteagle, British str., for Vancouver.	
10, Segovia, German str., for Singapore.	
10, Shoshu Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.	

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Haiching, from Foochow and Amoy, Miss Stringe, Miss Bate, Messrs Monison and Sique.	
Per Ischia, from Bombay, etc., Mr and Mrs Benjamini, Prince Ruspoli and Mr Almeida Nibeira and son.	
Per Rubi, from Manila, Mrs M. Westcott, Messrs C. Smith, J. P. Lawler, Fusioka, H. L. Babcomb, D. C. Collins, G. L. Judson, J. F. Traleg, D. Urmeneta, L. Litibank, O. Kendall, J. E. Huntahorn, G. Francis, G. P. Temple, F. Smith and W. E. Odgers, U.S.N.	
Per Hakata Maru, from Yokohama, for Hongkong, Messrs N. Hashin, O. Foaser, F. F. E. Silva, K. Kudo, T. Torai and S. Kobayashi; for Singapore, Messrs M. A. Raeburd and H. T. Tappliss; for Penang, Mr O. V. Thomas; for Marseilles, Messrs K. Kawashima and M. Tsuyuki.	

Per Segovia, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs Meuring.

Per Kwongsang, from Shanghai and Swatow, Dr. Billingham and Mr A. B. Bryson.

Per Ernest Simons, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Messrs Narguel, Bertrand and Luts; from Singapore, Messrs Mousison and Stewart; from Saigon, Messrs Mikami, Jonkeer, E. de Laboulay, de Lajudie and Baris; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mrs Minol and 2 children, Messrs Holstuf, Sixo (2), and Attilio; from Port Said, Mr Coutticut; from Saigon, Messrs A. Harcourt, Jutter and Bos; from Singapore, for Kobe, Mr Lumemots; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Canda, Mrs Solignac, Messrs Bieltent, Jeanten and Dieressonniere; from Singapore, Messrs Davies and Hakan.

Per Armand Behic, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr Steele Boyce; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Beran and baby, Messrs Hugh Hisker, Von Bouchard, Pellet, Kopp and boy, Zabroue, Ohl, Donabassis and Bartholomei; for Saigon, from Kobe, Mr and Mrs Bourrel; from Shanghai, d'Auxiore de Ruffi, De Salignac Fenelon, Palmieri, Rochetti and Fari; for Singapore from Yokohama, Mr Jones; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Chudleigh; from Kobe, for Colombo, Mr Ogawa; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Messrs Nanvelsers and M. Isidore; from Kobe, Mr Chaplin; from Shanghai, Mrs Guyon, Messrs Nonette, Joseph Min, Waas, T. Louis and Emily.

Per Manchuria, from San Francisco, for Hongkong, Mr and Mrs C. E. Becker, Mr and Mrs J. F. Elliott, Mr and Mrs J. F. Fitzgerald, Mr and Mrs R. I. Fulton, Mr and Mrs J. S. Goodale, Mr and Mrs G. H. Harrington, Mr and Mrs R. J. Louis, Mr and Mrs D. H. Osborn, Mr and Mrs S. Silverstone, Mr and Mrs H. Schaefer, Mr and Mrs G. E. Walk, Major and Mrs B. B. Ray, Rev. and Mrs S. B. Rossiter, Mrs C. E. Anderson, Mrs F. Benson, Mrs E. A. Clark, Mrs S. C. Collins, Mrs G. Crose, Mrs P. O. Downing, Mrs L. T. Ellis, Mrs A. Henderson, Mrs J. E. Knudson, Mrs V. E. Miller and infant, Mrs S. C. Parker, Mrs C. M. Stoney, Mrs J. E. Tracey, Mrs S. Woeff, Miss A. F. Appleton, Miss G. Clark, Miss M. Faurote, Miss V. Huntington, Miss L. Lamme, Miss S. McKee, Miss L. H. McKee, Miss J. B. Noyes, Miss I. Wilcox, Miss N. Whelan, Miss W. L. Baldwin, Rev. M. Kelly, Master D. Elliott, Messrs J. Brutton, C. K. Edmunds and servant, H. Offletcher, E. A. Fowler, G. R. Harvey, T. Manley, J. B. McFerran, N. Peterson, J. Pleger, S. R. Price, M. Reyes, M. C. Schutz, H. Skott, D. C. Sower, H. W. Stinson, W. A. Smith, P. Tuason, W. H. Wolf, C. E. Wright, C. Y. Woodward and E. J. Westerhouse.

DEPARTED.

Per Kaga Maru, for Seattle, etc., Messrs Garner, Wakabayashi and Isoda.

Per Monteagle, for Vancouver, &c., Mr and Mrs Warley, Mrs Angelo, Miss G. K. Harris, Miss Lee, Messrs W. M. Knapp, G. F. Obey, J. N. Anderson, John Lemm, D. A. Collins, H. K. Salcombe, W. A. Birks and W. Q. Lloyd.

Per Ernest Simons, for Shanghai, etc., Mr and Mrs Barmont and baby, Mr and Mrs Ian, Mr and Mrs Glencosky, Mr and Mrs Canda, Messrs Balsens, Solignac, L. R. Dasies, J. Boix, Lumistomo, Minal and children, H. Sutter, Henri Maspero, Jeanson, H. Hassan, Decressionniere, Holstein, Z. Attilio, Coutacos, d'Harcourt, E. Bos, Frank L. Fearon and Verbitsky.

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Printed and published by BASTIAN AUGUSTUS
for the Concurrence, at 104, Des Vaux
Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong
London office, 131, Fleet Street, E.C.